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## African Violet Society of America

### AVSA Weekly Growing Tip

November 7, 2016

#### Greetings!

Welcome to AVSA's Weekly Growing Tip email. We hope you benefit from our experience and expertise!

#### Where Do African Violet Names Come From?

All plants can be identified by their scientific botanic names, and as part of the family [Gesneriaceae](#) and genus [Saintpaulia](#), African violets are no exception. But hybrid AVs can also have registered names, ranging from quite serious to sometimes humorous. How do these plants get their novel names?

Hybridizers who cross two parent AVs, or AV growers who discover something very unique about a "[sport](#)" growing from an existing plant, are usually the people who name these new additions to violetry. Some combine the identity of who hybridized the plant and one or two of its characteristics. Others might name a particular variety after a particular place.



Photo by Marjorie Bullard

Rob's Vanilla Trail - The Name Says It All!



Buckeye Cherry Topping - From  
Guess Where?

A hybridizer or sport-spyer can name their new plant at any time, and reserve that name through AVSA as soon as it blooms. But in order to register it officially, a new plant should exhibit characteristics that are "significantly different" from existing, named and/or registered cultivars.

Growers who think they have something truly special among their seedlings and sports follow a [registration process](#) through the African Violet Society of America, which is the authorized International Cultivar Registration Authority

(ICRA) for the genus *Saintpaulia*. Names must conform to certain standards and cannot be identical to existing AV names.

Non-registered, named AVs can be included in the AVSA's [Master List](#), along with those that are registered. However registration has its perks: Some AVSA-affiliated show classes allow only registered varieties, and some show awards are for registered varieties only.

[New violets](#) are named almost every day. From factual to fanciful, what's in their names is as varied as the growers and plants themselves!

***Do you have questions about growing violets? Respond to this email and let us know. You might find the answer featured in an upcoming Weekly Growing Tip.***

Thank you for your interest in "America's Favorite Houseplant!"

Sincerely,

Maureen Pratt  
AVSA Membership & Promotion

## News from the African Violet Society of America

### New this week!

**[First Class for Mobile iPads and iPods!](#)** AVSA's useful software program, a searchable database of nearly all named and/or registered African violets, has long been available in [Windows](#) and for [Android](#) phone devices. Now it is available as an app for your favorite Apple products. Get yours today!

**Attention AVSA Life Members!** The AVSA office now has a stock on hand of Life Membership Certificates and Membership Cards. If you are a Life Member and would like to have the document to prove it, please contact the office [by email](#) or at 844-400-2872.

[The AVSA Store](#) offers many products at a significant discount for members of the **[African Violet Society of America](#)**. Not a member yet? **[Join AVSA](#)** today and start saving!

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