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African Violet Society of America

AVSA Weekly Growing Tip

October 17, 2016

Greetings!

Welcome to today's Growing Tip email from the [African Violet Society of America](#).

Yes, winter's on its way. Are your violets ready?

In sunny Southern California, the air is cooler as the sun sets earlier. Farther north, rain and even early snow have brought much colder moisture to lawns and roads. (In parts Down Under, the opposite is happening, and people are preparing for spring - a subject for another newsletter!). Yes, the season's are changing. As we put on our jackets and sweaters and turn the thermostat from A/C to heat, we can also consider our violets. They won't need gloves and scarves, but their micro-climate is changing, too, and we can help them weather those changes if we consider:



Scarf optional - This *S. ionantha* subsp. *grotei* clone *confusa* Mather E is all set for winter! (just kidding!)

Light. The angle and duration of natural light changes with the seasons. Whether you grow in windows or artificial light (or a combination thereof), your plants could react to the changes and might start to "reach" for light because of it. Trees outside that might otherwise shade your shelves could lose their leaves and give less protection from direct sunlight. Observe your plants for signs of sunburn or other seasonal changes and make adjustments as you do. And as the weather outside turns much colder, move your plants away from drafts or cold window panes.

Water and Fertilizer. In winter, plants might not grow as quickly and flower as often as they do during warmer months. They might need less water and fertilizer. Observe how your plants are growing. Watch out for drooping leaves even if the soil is wet - a sign that they are waterlogged.

Ambient Humidity. Central heat can dry indoor air quickly. African violets like ambient humidity of between 40 and 50 percent. If your indoor humidity falls below this, try one or another of the [AVSA-recommended ways to boost humidity levels](#) around your plants.

Pests and Diseases. Sudden changes in temperature can stress our plants. Disease such as [powdery mildew](#) might take advantage of a weakened plant and appear seemingly overnight. Outdoor pests might find their way indoors when the weather cools and take a bite (or two) out of your plants. Keep an eye out for signs of any of these problems and take measures to [treat and protect](#) your violets appropriately.

Winter might slow our violets' growth, but it can be a fine season for enjoying our collection, putting together our ["wish list"](#) for next year, and thinking about which plants will make stellar

entries for the [spring shows](#). All heart-warming activities, especially as the cold winds blow outside!

Anyone is welcome to [sign up for this growing tip](#) from the African Violet Society of America. Subscribers are not required to be members of AVSA. Please share it with your friends!

Have a growing question? Feel free to contact us at the [AVSA Office](#)!

Happy Growing!

Maureen Pratt
African Violet Society of America, Membership & Promotion

**News
from
the
[African
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African Violet Society of America [Calendars](#) are a great item to sell at fall shows or to club members. Call the office at 844-400-AVSA to discuss details. Free Shipping!

[Albuquerque 2016 AVSA Convention](#) is now available as a USB thumb drive. This easy storage device is reliable & accessible for every computer. It even says AVSA!



Coming soon! You asked for a catalog of the past email growing tips and the AVSA website team is designing that to be ready in November.

Don't forget... if you are not a member of the African Violet Society of America, you are invited to [Join](#) today!

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