

Tips For Growing African Violets

African Violets have always been one of the most popular of the inside flowering plants. You can grow this plant with good success if you will just follow a few simple procedures. First of all, when choosing a new plant, examine it well and make sure it does not have wilted and droopy leaves. This could be a sign of cold damage or root damage due to poor watering. Leaves should be good color, stand out well and somewhat rigid. The next tip is the pot selection. You can use plastic, clay, glazed clay or even ceramic; all will work equally well. Remember that natural clay will dry out quicker than the other three and will require more attention in watering.

The next factor to consider is the location of where the plant should be located in the house. An east window is the most preferred although some growers will shift to a southern exposure for the January and February months as long as part shade can be provided for the sunnier days. Watering is the most crucial factor for success. Remember to always feel the soil before watering and use water that is at least room temperature. Moistening the plant on a weekly basis and let it drain thoroughly into a drip pan below. An outstanding way to keep good humidity around the plant is to use a bed of small pea pebbles under your pot for drainage inside the of the drip tray. This really ups the humidity near the plant. Remember to never directly water overhead on the foliage of the plant. Instead, water the soil to the side of the leaves.

A good liquid fertilizer formulated for African violets is a must. I would suggest using this feeding on a bi-monthly schedule, except during the dark winter months, when once a month would be sufficient. Violets are tropical and prefer moderately warm temperatures. Supplementing with artificial light will greatly increase blooms during the winter months. Follow these tips and you will on your way to rewards from an outstanding blooming houseplant. Enjoy the garden!

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