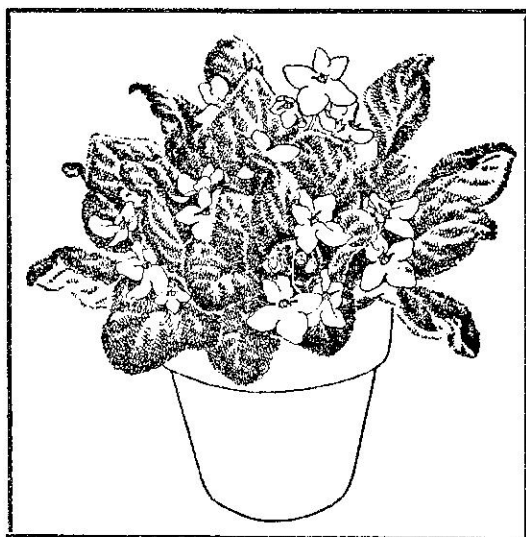


The African Violet Magazine

VOL. 1 NO. 1

1947



Published by the African Violet Society of America, Inc.

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The African Violet Society
of America, Inc.

Vol. I No. I

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When writing to the Staff for information
please enclose a self-addressed stamped
envelope.

The names and addresses of the District
Directors will be given in the next issue of
this magazine.

Don't forget the African Violet show in
Atlanta October 9 and 10.

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Atlanta, Georgia

Classification: Dr. W. D. Holley
Cromwell, Conn.

Birmingham African Violet Show
Sept. 30, 1947, Sears Auditorium

Violet enthusiasts of the 3rd region
which includes Florida, Tennessee, Ala-
bama, Georgia, Mississippi, North and
South Carolina, are urged to exhibit
plants.

For information write
Mrs. Wm. J. Kiser, Route 5, Box 105
Birmingham, Ala.

The Presidents Message

Let's Get Acquainted!

WELCOME TO OUR NEW AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

African Violets as a hobby are most fascinating and will give you an abundance of genuine pleasure and satisfaction. As a house plant they far exceed any other plant in popularity. They adapt themselves easily to home conditions and are prolific bloomers.

Since we are living in an age of specialization, it is the hope of your president that this Society will reach large proportions and find happiness in achievements.

For our first year under Professor W. D. Holley's direction we are now making a gallant effort to get all African Violets properly classified. We ask for your co-operation in this great task.

I am looking forward to seeing you at our Fall Show in Atlanta, Georgia.

Sincerely, your president

Mrs. O. E. Keller

Constitution and By Laws
of the African Violet Society of America, Inc.

Article I

Name

The name of this organization shall be the African Violet Society of America.

Article II

Object

Its object shall be:

1. The purpose of this organization shall be both educational and scientific in that one may be able to enlarge the groups of those interested in this plant.
2. To properly arrange, to classify the many varieties as to color, leaf, character, growth, etc.
3. This organization shall be ready to assist in promoting the growth and to encourage the propagation of new and better varieties.
4. To work out proper methods of disease control and all other matters that may be of interest to the members.
5. It shall hold meetings at which times methods and demonstration, growth and fertilization, and all other activities connected with this plant shall be discussed.
6. Bulletins be issued to the members, and reports of its officers be submitted for approval of the membership.

Article III

Members

1. Application for membership in the society shall be by written application, and approved by the membership committee.
2. Sustaining members shall be those who are recognized commercial growers.
3. Space shall be provided in the annual show for commercial exhibits so that the public, as well as members can become acquainted with new and better varieties.

Article IV

Dues

1. The annual dues for individual members shall be \$3.00 per year, payable on or before the 1st day of January of each and every year, said dues to be for the calendar year.
2. If a member is also a member of a local society, 50¢ of the above amount may be retained by the local society, and the balance of \$2.50 shall be forwarded to the Treasurer of the African Violet Society of America, Inc.
3. Dues of sustaining members shall be \$10.00 for each calendar year.

Article V

Regions

In order to stimulate interest in local committees, the Executive Committee may, from time to time, designate and constitute certain geographic sections of the United States as official regions. A Regional Vice President shall be appointed to preside over each of these divisions. The states of the Union shall be divided into ten Regions as follows:

1. Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island and New York.
2. Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia and West Virginia.
3. North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee.
4. Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and Illinois.
5. Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota.
6. Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri.
7. Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas.
8. New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Colorado.
9. Montana, Wyoming and Idaho.
10. Washington, Oregon, Nevada and California.

These ten Regional Vice Presidents shall serve on the Board of Directors of the Society, in promoting the interest in both growing and exhibiting at local and national shows. They should encourage the holding of local shows where ever possible, arrange for staging same, and assist in securing efficient judges.

Article VI

Officers

Officers of this society shall consist of the President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer.

1. These officers shall constitute the Executive Board, and shall have the power to arrange for all meetings, and other matters as may come before the society between the regular meetings.
2. The Board of Directors shall consist of the Executive Board, Regional Vice Presidents and chairman of each standing committee, and shall have general control of the business of the society. Five members shall constitute a quorum.

3. The President shall preside at all meetings. It shall be his (or her) duty to appoint all committees for the ensuing year, and to perform all duties pertaining to such office, and ex-officio of all committees except the nominating committee.

4. The 1st Vice President shall preside in the absence of the President, and shall at all times assist the President in such work of the society as may be assigned to him.

5. The 2nd Vice President shall preside in the absence of both the President and the 1st Vice President, and shall perform such duties as may be assigned to him (or her) by the President of the society.

6. Recording Secretary shall keep an accurate account of all meetings of the society, also of the Board Meetings. These minutes shall be read and approved at the regular meeting of the society.

7. The Corresponding Secretary shall conduct the correspondence of the society, keep an accurate list of the membership and their addresses, and shall notify them of the Annual Meeting.

8. The Treasurer shall be custodian of all funds; pay by check, all bills approved by the Executive Board and signed by the person presenting the bill and countersigned by the President and Recording Secretary; collect all dues and give receipts for same; file receipts and vouchers for all disbursements and shall keep an accurate account of same. A complete audit of his (or her) accounts shall be submitted to the society at each annual meeting. The Treasurer shall be bonded for such sum as directed by the Executive Board, the expense of the bond and the audit to be paid from the Treasury of the society.

9. These officers shall be elected at the annual meeting. They shall hold office for one year or until their successors are elected and installed.

10. Each outgoing officer shall within two weeks deliver to his (or her) successor in office all records and other material belonging to the office, and shall receive a receipt therefor.

Article VII

Nominations and Elections

1. Nominations shall be made at the annual meeting by a nominating committee of three (3) appointed by the President, but nominations for any office may be made from the floor.

2. Nominations for officers shall be presented by a nominating committee and election shall be by ballot. The chairman shall call for further nominations from the

floor. When there is but one nominee for an office, it shall be the duty of the Secretary to cast the elective ballot for the nominee.

3. In the event of a vacancy's occurring within the year, the President, with the approval of the Executive Board, shall appoint a successor who shall serve until the next annual meeting.

Article VIII

Meetings

1. Meetings of the society may be called from time to time in the discretion of the President and/or the Executive Committee, but the annual meeting of the society must be held in the spring or fall at the close of the annual show. The new officers elected at this time shall take office on January 1st following.

2. Twenty-five (25) members of the society shall constitute a quorum at all meetings.

3. Robert's Rules of Order shall govern all the deliberations of this society.

Article IX

Local Chapters

1. In order to stimulate the interest in African Violets, we recommend that local chapters be organized in different sections of the United States, that regular monthly meetings or quarterly meetings be held, and that all phases of the growing, propagating, exhibiting and classifying of these plants be discussed.

2. These chapters and their members should be contributing members to the National Society and entitled to all the privileges and publications of the society.

3. They shall be eligible to hold office and to participate in the annual African Violet Show.

Article X

Amendment to By-Laws

Any member of this society may propose an amendment to these by-laws at any regular meeting. These amendments must be submitted in writing to the President, and should bear the approval of the Executive Committee. A two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote of the members present shall be necessary to constitute any change in these by-laws.

Article XI

Standing Committees

1. The President shall appoint the following committees, to which shall be assigned

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all the duties that are usually performed by such committees in all regular organizations, and they shall serve for one year:

Finance, Publicity, Bulletins, Show, Classification, Membership and Program.

2. Other committees may be needed from time to time and these may be appointed by the President or by the society in regular meeting. A complete report of their work must be submitted at the annual meeting.

Article XII Incorporation

1. This association shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Georgia, and the home office of the society shall be Atlanta, Georgia.

2. Charter membership shall consist of the organizing charter members who were present and paid their dues at the initial meeting November 9, 1946, and their names will appear on the application for charter when filed.

3. Additional charter members will be those who have applied for membership, and who have paid their dues by or on May 15, 1947.

4. The Executive Committee shall select a seal, the form of which shall meet the approval of the society, and shall be deposited in the care of the President of the African Violet Society of America, Inc.

5. The society shall not operate in any manner resulting in pecuniary gain or profit to its members.

National African Violet Show

C. J. Hudson, Jr.

The first National African Violet Show, which will be held in the Atlanta Municipal Auditorium Annex on October 9 and 10, 1947, promises to be the most interesting show of its type ever held in this country. According to latest developments as announced by the show committee, there will be a number of most interesting competitive classes which will be quite different from the ones held in previous shows. Probably most interesting will be the exhibit of African Violets in niches.

Heretofore, African Violets have been shown mostly on plain table and step settings whereby individual plants are entered in competition in separate variety groups. It was the opinion of the show committee, however, that African Violets have a different place in the home other than being used for ornamental or window decoration and for placing on various tables, so the niche idea was created. In this group, exhibitors will use African Violets as a predominating feature in the arrangement, but various accessories will be used to supplement these plants in completing the picture. Garden groups and African Violet societies are taking part in this phase of the Show.

In addition to the novelty niche exhibit, an Atlanta garden club Violet grower will make some demonstration displays of Violets used in mantle piece arrangements and also for regular table arrangements. This will be done to give visitors an idea for using these plans for various occasions and purposes in the home.

The general competitive exhibit of African Violet varieties, which will be shown on the step-like staging, will consist of different variety groups. In all, it is expected

that there will be some 65 to 70 varieties on display at this show. One of the new rules developed regarding eligibility for entries in this class is that all plants entered must be single crown plants. This rule was developed to simplify the judging of the plants and also to place all specimens on a more equal competitive basis. There will be a separate class for multiple crown plants where they will be judged irrespective of the variety, principally on the size of the plant and the number of blooms.

Various commercial growers, fertilizer manufacturers, and other business firms dealing with African Violets and accessories and their culture will have practical exhibits on display at the Show.

All African Violet growers are eligible to exhibit at the show and are asked to display their special varieties. There will be classes for all of the main varieties and also special ones for such novelties as doubles, albinos, etc. Doors will be opened on October 8 for the staging of the exhibits and all exhibits must be entered and placed by the evening of that date. Judging will commence on the morning of October 9 and the Show will then be open to the public for two days.

In connection with the First National African Violet Show, there will be the first annual meeting of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. Prominent speakers will take part in the program, and new officers will be elected for the coming season.

For further information regarding classifications and rules in the African Violet Show, write to Mr. C. J. Hudson, Jr., P. O. Box 4088, Atlanta 2, Georgia.

Feasterville, Bucks County, Pennsylvania

July 25, 1947

Dear Friends,

May I introduce to each of you, saint-paulia enthusiasts, our HOMING PIGEON Department and extend to everyone an invitation to become an active member in our circular Units? We have chosen this title, as I hope the Organization will be all that the name implies - with letters carried to all parts of the Country by our faithful Homing Pigeon that braves storms and obstacles to return home with messages delivered to one another, safely.

We also prefer this name, so as to avoid confusion when Round Robins are mentioned, as many of us are already Robinites in Clubs conducted by the popular Miss Marion P. Thomas of "Flower Grower" fame.

Our rules will be simple, but ENFORCED.

1. A 3 day grace, from the time the Pigeon arrives, is permitted in which period you are expected to write and post your Unit letter. If this is impossible, please insert a note of explanation and allow our letters to continue without unnecessary delay on their journey.

2. Sufficient postage must accompany the envelope and all Unit letters are to be mailed first class. It is important that each sender records his or her name and return address on the envelope.

3. A courtesy card to your Director is to be posted simultaneously with the Homing Pigeon. The only exception, will be the tenth member in each Unit - that will be posting the letters to the Director, in order to complete each flight.

No fees are required to join and the original letters of each Unit are to be an introduction of yourself, family and town. The letter of each prior round is always to be removed on the ensuing flights and as our object is to be of a constructive nature - letters should be written essentially on AFRICAN VIOLETS, rather than containing social messages. These may be written to one another, personally.

In answer to possibly an unvoiced question - must one be a member of the National Society in order to join our Homing Pigeon? Naturally, we prefer your 100% support, but we feel even tho' you may not be a member now, your taking an active part in our Homing Pigeon department, designates to us, your interest and a probable step toward this goal.



*The
Homing Pigeon*

And, I wish to extend to the commercial growers a special invitation!

As you folks write, requesting to become a "Pigeonite", I shall appreciate some data. Please inform me approximately the number of varieties that you have in your collection of violets and the period of time you have had this for a hobby. It will be of value to me in forming our Units.

I shall report the progress of our growth and news gathered from our Units (relayed to me, by YOUR directors) in this column. Will you be looking for it?

Now, in closing - may I take this opportunity of expressing my sincere appreciation to Mr. Arthur G. Chard: 31 Jefferson St., Haverhill, Mass. for his kind contribution as shown by the sketch heading our department. Thank you, Arthur.

This, has been my first letter, in this capacity, to my friends near and far. But, I hope there will be many more to follow. Your comments and suggestions are solicited. Via our Homing Pigeon, I am anticipating many visits with you. So, until we meet again, I am

sincerely yours,

Elsie Croasdale Freed (Conductress)

The African Violet (*Saintpaulia*)

By—Mrs. O. E. Kellar—Des Moines, Iowa

We that grow African Violets are asked if they are in the same family as our wild violets. The African violet or *Saintpaulia* is not a true violet. They belong to the Gesneriaceae family. This is a very large family, 18 tribes and all their families. The African Violet tribe name is Ramondieae, there are five in this tribe. There is only one specie in the *Saintpaulia* as it is called.

The *Saintpaulia* was discovered in 1890 by a man named Baron Walter Von St. Paul. So many of our plants are named after the man that discovered it. This is the way this beautiful plant got the name *Saintpaulia*. They came from east Africa. They were found in two places at that time, a short distance from Tanga Africa in a wooded place in fissures of limestone rock as well as in rich soil with plenty of vegetable matter. There were several varieties discovered slightly different in color. There was a yellowish shade, this was lost also shades in blue. Seeds were sent to England and plants were raised. When these bloomed in 1893 they were exhibited at a horticultural exhibit. Flowering plants were developed in the Royal Gardens of England. The ones introduced at that time were *Purpuria*, dark purple, *Grandiflora*, a large flower and *Albescens*, a white tinted pink. These forms seemly were lost, but a form known as *Ionantha* and *Kwensis*, a hybrid were saved. It was several years later that they were brought to the U. S.

Many varieties are on the market now. Will there be a yellow African Violet? There are yellow flowering plants in the Gesneriaceae family. It wouldn't surprise me to see a yellow African Violet before many years. There are many seedlings on the market, many alike but with different names. Now with the Society, we hope to get the various varieties classified. This will take time. I have appointed a committee to start working on this hoping the growers will work with us. We have the white, pink, shades of blue and the so-called orchid and red. There are many beautiful leaves, some heavy, deep veined, dark green, purple underneath, the Blue Girl leaf, also the Dupont African violets with their heavy leaves and large flowers. Several different double flowering African violets are on the market.

PROPAGATION: - African violets are propagated by three different methods - by offset or divisions, by leaf cutting and by seed. When the divisions are from older plants that have more than two crowns,

separate carefully, do not plant too deeply, and leave crown free of any covering of soil. Older crowns without roots may be re-rooted by cutting away the older portion of stalk, and re-rooting as you would a leaf cutting. When planting young plants and there are several from one leaf, tear them apart putting one plant to a pot. If the plants are not all large enough put back the small plants in sand and peat until larger, setting them far enough apart. When larger they can be lifted with plenty of sand and peat on their roots.

A crowded pot of African violets will not bloom as well as they do with one crown. Be sure to use large enough pots. They do not like to have their root crowded like most plants. When you by a violet and there are several in a pot, as soon as it stops blooming, repot it putting each division by itself. They will make you nicer plants and give you more bloom.

LEAF CUTTINGS: - Leaf cutting is the most common method of propagation. There are different ways of rooting these cuttings. Some people have excellent results rooting in water, the best way is to cover the top of a glass with wax paper. Holes are punched through the cover so you can put the petioles (stem) in the water, keeping the leaf out

Some use a large pot of sand and peat, putting a small pot loosely plugged in the center, and applying water through this. Some like to use long petioles. By using them you can use the leaf several times. When the baby plant has several leaves cut the mother leaf off and reroot. Others cut the petioles about $\frac{1}{4}$ " long. Many use small pots putting a leaf to each pot.

I find one of the best and quickest methods is to use a glass container. I like a fish bowl or an aquarium and cover with glass. Have your sand and peat moist, not wet, sprinkle with charcoal. I am trying out Zonolite (there are many other trade names) using it with the sand and peat, you have to be careful in watering as Zonolite will hold more moisture than peat. I am trying it by itself, just enough water on it to dampen it, press it down and plant your leaves. I find they root faster in Zonolite altho I have only used it about two months, have nice size plants from cuttings. The glass covered containers requires very little care. Replacement of moisture is seldom necessary until the cuttings are ready to transplant. Keep away from direct sunlight. Vitamin B1 give you stronger roots.

SEED METHOD: - You can cross your African violets to get your seed. In crossing use a plant with good leaves as one plant and the flower of another. I find I had much better seedling from crosses of Neptune for leaf and Blue Girl or Dupont. I didn't like the cross with Ionantha, too many long stemmed plants. I found it takes the seed from 6 to 9 months to ripen. You can let it stand a few weeks. I have planted it as soon as I took it off the plant and had good results. The baby seedlings come up in about 2 weeks. I use sand and peat, press down, sprinkle seed on top. Don't cover seeds. I use glass container covered with glass. When baby violets have three leaves, transplant about an inch apart, still using the covered container. When the plants have 4 or 5 leaves pot as other baby violets. Seed will not come true. You never know what you will get. I have had seedlings bloom in 6 months after planting the seed. The seed is very fine and will dry out so easily, that is why I use the covered method. Have your sand and peat moist before sowing the seed.

SOIL: - There are many good soil mixtures. The one I like is 3 parts heavy rich black soil, 1 part peat, 1 part rotted manure, 1 part compost or rotted leaves. If soil is heavy use at least 3 parts sand. To this mixture add 1-6 inch pot of super-phosphate to a bu. of soil (1 tablespoon to a 4" pot of soil). If you do not have compost or manure add two parts peat. Peat keeps the soil from packing and makes it mellow. Add charcoal if you like, it helps to keep the soil sweet if you over water and water log the soil.

Some say African violets like acid soil. I tried using it with failure, I now use soil testing neutral pH 7 or about. They were found growing in limestone rock. It may be where the soil is not as rich as our Iowa soil, they could be grown in acid soil. My soil tests very high in nitrogen. Most of our soil is lacking phosphorus in Iowa. To get good bloom there should be plenty of phosphorus in the soil. This will not burn the plant. I like wood ashes in the soil mixture if you have it. This not only gives you potash but charcoal as well.

EXPOSURE: - It is the general opinion that African violets like east or north windows. They can be grown in any window. If using a south window watch the sun on the plants, set plants back or have a glass curtain between them and the glass. It isn't the sun that spots the leaves as much as it takes the blue out of the green and you will have a yellow green or faded blossoms. Cold water will spot them if sun shines on them. Some African violets like

more sun than others. The leaves will be darker, where others will take on more purple in a north window. Try them in different windows. African violets don't like to be moved from one window to another so if they are blooming good don't move them. There is a difference in the shade of an African violet blossom when the plant is subjected to different light, also different soil.

TEMPERATURE: - Ideal temperatures for African violets are 60 to 75 degrees, with lower temperature the plant will stop blooming and doesn't grow as fast. Sometimes this causes the leaves to wilt. If the temperature is high and the air too dry the violet will drop its buds, or the flower will fall off some time the first day.

WATERING: - The best way to test your African violet if it needs water is to test the surface with your finger. If it is dry to touch the plant needs watering. One of the safest ways to water the violets is in a dish or pan. When the surface soil is moist remove the violets. Some like to water from the top. If this method is used watch your violet that you don't rot the crown. Some like to keep the violet standing in water. Over watering often results in crown rot. Never water with cold water, very hot water is best in the cold weather. Even in the summer it is best to use warm water. Cold water shocks them so that it will throw the plant out of bloom. If a plant is resting after flowering heavy all winter sometimes the leaves will wilt. Withhold water, keep it very dry. it will start growing after it rests a month or so.

FEEDING: - African violets are heavy feeders. If your soil is rich they will not need feeding for at least 6 months or after heavy blooming. Then never over-feed. It is better to use half a spoon than the amount it says. Never feed a dry plant. Water the plant the day before, then feed the next day. I like vitamin B1 for watering, at least once a month, also for rooting leaves they will have much better root system. If the soil is not rich feed at least once a month.

INSECT AND DISEASES: - There is one insect pest that we frequently find on the African violets, the mealy bug. Apply alcohol using a toothpick with cotton rolled on the end touching each insect with it. Volck is very good used as a spray. This is an oil spray and plants should be kept out of sun until dry. I used this on a friend's plant and they never came back. I have never been bothered with them. Black fly - use naphthaline flakes around your plants or in the dish under the plant.

Some say this is good for mealy bugs. The cyclamen mite, new to many of us is very destructive on African violets in some areas. Curled, warted leaves in the crown of the plants are the best indication of the pest. Hot water bath 110° or DDT spray will kill the mite. These will not control the pest, as they may be on the shelf or window. The only sure control is sodium selenate. Caution must be used in handling this material, for it is very poisonous. This also will control Aphids.

CROWNROT: - Is caused many times by keeping the plant too wet.

PLANT WILTING: - Possibly is caused from over feeding or fertilizing when soil is too dry, burning the roots.

GENERAL CARE: - Give your African violets a bath, using warm water, keep out of sun until dry. Brush African violets, using a very soft brush. Turn your African violets a little each day to keep them symmetrical. A symmetrical one crown African violet is a specimen plant. Cut off all flower stems as soon as through blooming unless you have seed pods. White ring around your leaves of your African violets are caused some time by getting too cold in a window, take out on cold nights.

Just in Brief

By Inquisitive

PLANT MAGIC is the title of a really fine 141 page book by James P. Harworth, wherein he tells in down-to-earth words a great deal that is interesting about mutation. This is that mysterious process of plant life that is responsible for so many of the really fine varieties of African violets we now have, and the many more new ones we will have in the future. Be sure to read this book if you are interested in how the different types and colors of Saintpaulias come about. Binford & Mort, Portland Oregon, are the Publishers.

HOW MANY VARIETIES of Saintpaulias are there? Every zealous collector is seeking the answer to this one, and the Director of several round robins comes up with one answer to it. She maintains, according to our informant, there are more than a hundred different varieties. The fortunate participants in her robins will doubtless read some fine, interesting descriptions of these varieties as the robins-go-round. Perhaps our Editor will ask her to send us a copy of these descriptions for the benefit of our readers.

CLASSIFICATION, in an accurate and straightforward way, of the known varieties of African violets, is one of the long-time jobs of African Violet Society of America. This most important job is going forward through the services of a capable Classification Committee, with Doctor W. D. Holley of Cromwell Connecticut as Chairman. Mesdames Odom of Iowa, Schoen of West Virginia, Layson of Kentucky, Tinari of Pennsylvania, Radtke of Ohio, and Miss Wilcox of Massachusetts are the other members. The Committee is already tackling the job in a realistic way and has produced in a comparatively short time some splendid descriptions, preliminary as yet of course, of African violet varieties. More, much more, about this Committee's work for your pleasure and profit in future issues of the magazine.

YELLOW AFRICAN VIOLET. "Is there such a thing, and if so where may I get a leaf, cutting or plant, at any price" . . . is a question that came to us time and

time again during the past year. Thus far no one that we know has ever had or seen a yellow or yellow-tinted African violet. A plant expert advises that there may never be a yellow one because, "yellow and orange are colors caused . . . by pigments which are totally absent from flowers of this genus." But the mysterious processes in *Mutatia* may yet produce a yellow variety, and all may be assured that the magazine will learn of its being produced and will tell its readers about it.

PATIENCE is a prime characteristic of every interested African violet collector or grower. We are willing anytime to wait months for leaf cuttings to root, mature and bloom for our enjoyment and satisfaction. All this is apropos to what happened yesterday. Special delivery mail brought us two new ones, or at least we think they may be new ones, from a grower in a distant state. When we opened the package the plants were an unholy mess. Crushed and tumbled en route, they resembled a tossed salad that was days old and wilted. Verily, we said, hereafter we will demand that small, young plants be shipped us, because they pack and ship better. Patience in waiting for small, young plants to grow off is infinitely more profitable and better, than a tossed salad of older, brittle plants with wilted, faded blooms. More about this in future issues of the magazine.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP in African Violet Society of America is \$3.00 for all or any part of a calendar year. Check or money order to Treasurer of the Society, 2694 Lenox Road N. E. Atlanta, Georgia will promptly enroll anyone as a member of the Society.

WRITE INQUISITIVE in care of the Editor of the magazine, 4030 McCallie Avenue, Knoxville, Tennessee, about any questions or other matters of interest pertaining to African Violets. Effort will be made to respond to as many of such questions as space will permit in this column of the future issues of the magazine.

African Violet Widower

Pardon me, did you say African Violets?
Or maybe they're just running thru my head
At home I see them every where I look,
They are even all over my bed.

My darling wife really has the craze,
She has them pink, purple, blue and white.
She transplants them all day long,
And then waters them half of the night.

From dawn 'til dark I hear nothing else,
Its Red Head, Blue Boy, Trilby or Blue Girl,
Amethyst, Sailor Boy, Neptune or Viking,
No wonder my head's in such a whirl.

They're in the bedroom, dining room, kitchen
All over the walls and the floor,
They're even in the bath tub,
Every day brings more and more!

So I am an African Violet widower,
I don't know if I'm a husband or not,
I expect to find myself some day,
Planted in a little red clay pot.

S. B. Jack

To My Violets

You bloom upon my window sill
And give such pure delight,
I never tire of tending you
At morning, noon, or night

You only take such little care
For all the joy you give,
A little water, light, and sun
And food to help you live.

You help me to forget my cares,
And troubles along the way.
So a tribute to my violets
I like you more each day.

M — -

CYCLAMEN MITES

Mite (*Tarsonemis Pallidus*) is a loathsome enemy of our lovely African Violets, attacking the tender leaves and causing them to draw closely together at the center of the plant, distorting the foliage and buds in a twisted curling mass. The center of the plant becomes lighter in color, the buds and blooms fall early and there is little to do but destroy the plant and also the pot. Wash your hands and make up your mind that the next plant you buy will go into quarantine for a few weeks just to be sure.

This is a good time to look all plants over very carefully. Take each one to a bright light, and look for signs of trouble. Should you find anything suspicious, segregate the plant to another room. Wash the stands and any bowls they are in with disinfectant in the water. Next, go to work on the plants that seem alright with a spray, in a room that is airy but shaded to prevent discoloration of the leaves. If you have a spray that has proven to be just what you want then, of course, that will be your preference, if not, I have found "Optox" very satisfactory. Use 2½ teaspoonsful to each gallon of water at room temperature. Spray thoroughly under the leaves and over the entire plant. When the plants have dried replace them in their original places. Repeat the same treatment in ten days.

Be sure to remember the brushes used for the leaves and douse them in alcohol to kill any lurking mites they may be harboring. Dry them thoroughly before using again.

If you grow plants on cinders, rake them and turn them thoroughly, spraying also, then set your pots back making sure the foliage will have ample room to develop and yet not touch.

If the plant on which you have found mite is a great favorite, then remove the leaves after it has been sprayed and destroy the old plant and start all over again with clean leaves. I have never found it worth while risking fine plants for sentiment sake.

Virginia Lee Gardens

Send for Starr's Fall list of African Violets

Many varieties, both old and new

STARR DAHLIA GARDENS

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Atlanta, Georgia