


# The Road to Show

## A Guide for African Violet Exhibition


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[www.designfreelogoonline.com](http://www.designfreelogoonline.com)



“The road to **success**  
& the road to **failure**  
are almost exactly the same.”



*Colin R. Davis*



# Goals of the Show

- **Education**
- **Networking**
- **Form of Entertainment**
- **Source of Revenue**
- **Training ground for exhibitors**
- **Stimulates an interest in African violets**
- **Acquisition of new members**
- **Competition**
- **Opportunity to purchase named varieties of African violets, starter leaves and other African violet-related items at the plant sale table.**

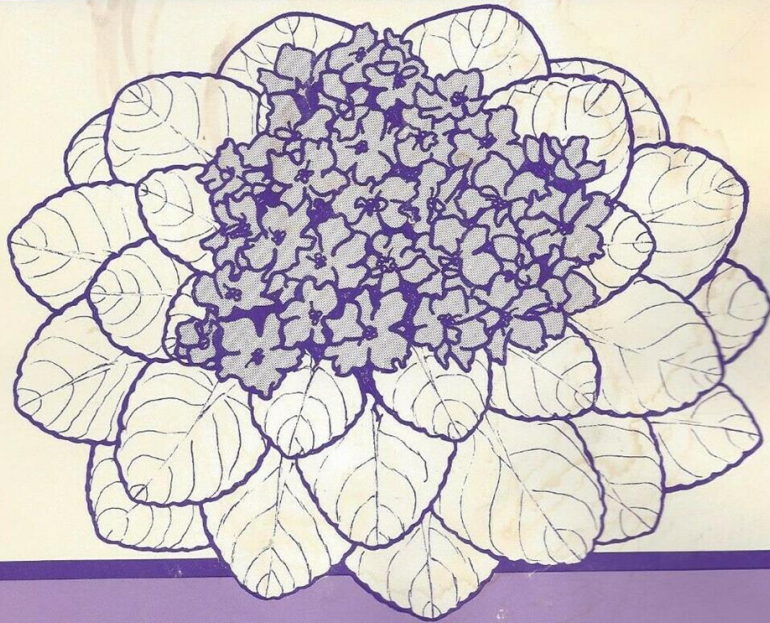
YOU CAN Grow  
African Violets



The Official Guide Authorized  
by the African Violet Society of America, Inc.  
*Kent and Joyce Stork*

*Judy Welton*

**GROWING  
TO SHOW**



**HOW TO GROW PRIZE-WINNING  
AFRICAN VIOLETS**  
BY PAULINE BARTHOLOMEW



*African Violet Handbook*

FOR  
JUDGES AND EXHIBITORS

*R*

RUTH G. CAREY

# Divisions of the African Violet Show

Annual African Violet show will include:

“**Horticulture**” division

“**Design**” division.

The horticulture division exhibits African Violet plants are entered into different classes/categories based upon plant type, size, blossom type/color and leaf type/color and other gesneriads

The design division exhibits plants in a decorative arrangement, flower design, container gardens, pave design

# Classifications and Entries

Start the process of deciding which plants to enter the show and at **least 6 months** before the start of the show.

Show plants can be entered into different classes according to leaf color, blossom color, type of variety, vintage, species, window grown, etc.

A class list/show list is sent to members via email from the local African Violet club. (January for Bay State members)

Master Variety List and AVSA First Class Program (Computerized)

# Sample Class List

## **Section I- Collection Class**

**Class I- Collection of 3 African Violet plants of Standard type....**

**Class II – Collection of Semi Miniature or Miniature**

## **Section II– Standards- green foliage**

Class I- Dark blue, purple

Class II- Red, wine, coral tones

Class III- White, cream, green

Class IV- Edged

## **Section III- Standards-variegated foliage**

Similar classes as above.....

## **Section IV- Semi Miniature – green foliage**

Similar classes as above.....

## **Section V- Semi Miniature – variegated foliage**

Similar classes as above.....

Similar sections continue with Miniature, Trailers, Species, Vintage etc.

# Choosing a Show Quality Variety

**Registered by the American African Violet Society**

**Tally Time published yearly by the AVSA**

**Master Variety List of AVSA: nearly 20,000 varieties**

**eBay**

**African Violet Commercial Growers: Lydon Lyons, Violet Barn, Violet Peddlers Plus, Moonlight Nursery, Glenda's House of Violets, etc.**

**Known Hybridizer Growers: Hancock, Thibodeaux, Fredette, Robinson, Muzalewski, Sorano, Hajner, Pittman, McDonald, and many more!**



**K's Slingshot (10851) 2016**  
**(K. Hajner)** Single dark coral  
sticktite pansy/purple fantasy. Dark  
green, quilted, slightly wavy, serrated.  
Standard

Standard

Green Leaves

Coral Color

Fantasy

**Section II: Standard Specimen Plants:**  
Any Type Blossom, Green Foliage

**Class 16: Fantasy**

? Novice, ? Window Grown



# THE SCALE OF POINTS

**Makes judging consistent**

**Assists Judges to look at all aspects of each plant**

**Merit based**

## **SCALE OF POINTS:**

**FORM AND SYMMETRY 30 Points**

**QUANTITY OF BLOOM (Floriferousness) 30 Points**

**CULTURAL CONDITION 25 Points**

**SIZE OF BLOOM 10 Points**

**COLOR OF BLOOM 5 Points**

**TOTAL 100 Points**



# And the Winner is.....

Total the score for each of the five areas.

Above 90 points= blue ribbon

80 to 89 points=red ribbon

70 to 79 points=white ribbon

Below 70 points earns no award 😞



# Disbudding

**12 weeks/4 months** before show remove all flowers and buds from your selected African Violet show plant(s).

**1-2 months before show** African Violet plants with **double blooms/flower type** will need to be **disbudded 8-9 weeks/ 2 months before show.**

**Semi-double blooms/flower type** will need to be **disbudded 6 weeks/ 1.5 months before show.**

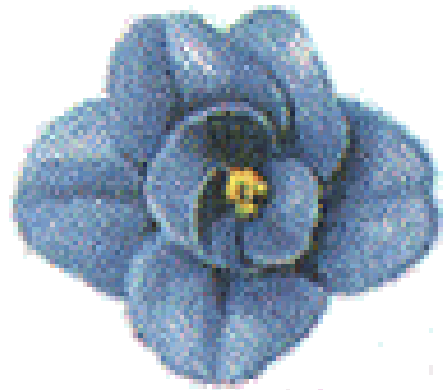
African Violet plants with **single blooms/flower type** will need to be **disbudded 5 weeks/ 1 month before show.**

African Violet plants with **variegated leaf type** will need to be **disbudded 10 weeks/ 2 months before show.**

# BLOSSOM TYPES



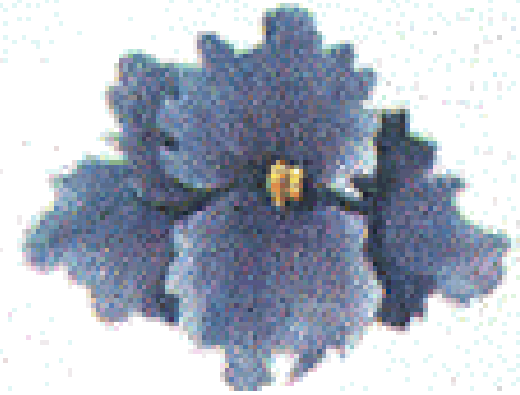
**SINGLE**  
top 2 petals  
smaller than  
bottom 3



**SEMI-DOUBLE**  
more than 5  
petals, and  
yellow center  
still visible



**DOUBLE**  
at least 10  
petals, and  
yellow center  
covered



**FRILLED**  
petal edges  
wavy

# Lighting

10 weeks – 12 hrs./day light

9 weeks / 2.5 months – 13 hrs./day light

8 weeks/2 months – 14 hrs./day light

7 weeks – 15 hrs./day light

\*Continue with 15 hrs./day light until the day of the show.

# Environmental Conditions – Humidity/Temperature

To encourage blooming of African Violet show plants, the temperature in the plant area should be around 75F.

Cooler temperatures makes a longer period for blooms to appear.

If at 1 week before show, the plant is blooming move them to a higher shelf or area, this will in turn increase the temperature slightly in your plant area.

The humidity in the area should be between 60%-70%.

# 12 week / 3 month “Schedule” (End of January)

Incorporates both growing and environmental conditions. Schedule follows a time frame of when to:

- Re-pot the plant
- Fertilize
- Change light/humidity conditions
- Groom/space leaves
- Disbud flowers



# 6 Months Before Show

**SELECT PLANTS OF SHOW  
QUALITY POTENTIAL**

**CALENDAR**

**VARIOUS POT SIZES**

**SOIL**

**FERTILIZER**

**LIGHTING**

**LABELS/GROOMING TOOLS**



# Support Rings



# African Violet Tools



# 4 Months Before Show

**Good maintenance**

**Space between plants**

**Watch for suckering and remove**

**Repot plants**

**Rotate plants  $\frac{1}{4}$  turn weekly**

**Groom off row leaves**

**Increase lights to 10 hours**



# 12 Weeks Before Show

**Disbud weekly**

**Room temperature 65-75  
degrees**

**Groom off another row of  
leaves**

**Use same Supplemental  
Feeding Schedule as listed at 6  
months**

**Variegated plants to the ends of  
light**

**Verify names and descriptions  
in AVSA's Master List (First  
Class)**

**Increase Lights to 11 hours**



# 10 Weeks Before Show

**Increase light hours by one hour per week**

**Clean light bulbs. Place one new tube and increase light time to 12 hours.**

**Fertilizer: Switch to high phosphorus (high middle number)**

**Bathe plants. Dry with sea sponge.**

**Disbud**

**Rotate ¼ turn weekly**



# 9 Weeks Before Show

**Fertilizer with high phosphorus supplement.**

**Run lights 12 hours a day**

**Foliar feed show plants.**

**Vigilant to observe for insects or powdery mildew**

**Temperature 65-75 degrees**

**Humidity 60%**

**Disbud variegated plants for the last time.**



# 8 Weeks Before Show

**Increase lights time by 1 hour to 13 hours.**

**Continue to disbud semi-doubles and singles.**

**Check for suckers.**

**Continue supplemental bloom feedings**

**Rotate  $\frac{1}{4}$  turn**





# 7 Weeks Before Show

**Light time = 14 hours**

**Disbud semi-doubles for the last time**

**Return to regular balanced fertilizer (20-20-20}**

**Plants receive a foliar feeding for the last time**



# 6 Weeks Before Show

**Disbud singles for the last time.**

**Check for and remove suckers.**

**Wash foliage**

**20-20-20 fertilizer**

**Rotate plant  $\frac{1}{4}$  turn.**

**\*Increase light to 15 hours**



# 3 Weeks Before Show

**\*Lights continue at 15 hours.**

**Continue to fertilize 20-20-20**

**Review the requirements to enter and fill out paperwork.**

**Print forms from the Baystate AVS website for registration**

**Continue to check plants daily, grooming and checking for suckers.**



# 2 Weeks Before Show

**Lights continue at 15 hours per day.**

**Prepare boxes to carry plants. Have enough newspaper on hand for packing/stabilizing plants.**

**Pots should be clean**

**Place a label under each pot with plant name, your name, phone number or address.**



# 1 Week Before Show

Lights on at 15 hours per day

Adjust temperature and lighting if plants are in full bloom:

- Reduce light hours
- Reduce temperature

If plants are not coming into full bloom:

- Add another hour to lights
- Increase temperature

Check for suckers/flower stalk stubs

Final bath given and use sea sponge to dry

Brush and groom plants



# 1 Day Before Show

**Remove any spent blossoms**

**Slip pot**

**Place plants in boxes for transporting to show**

**Remove any rings or leaf supports after arrival.**

**Have registration paperwork completed**

**Arrive early to do final brushing of leaves and final prepping of blossoms.**



# End Of African Violet Show

Once the shows has ended  
isolate your plant in your home

Remove blossoms and  
breakdown plant to the crown

Once the show ends, assimilate  
the plants back to normal light  
conditions.

Leach the plant with plain water  
to get rid of any fertilizer build  
up.



# Resources

“Growing to Show”-- How to Grow Prize-Winning African Violets

by Pauline Bartholomew and AVSA, 1986

“You Can Grow African Violets”

by Kent and Joyce Stork, 2007

“The African Violet Society of America Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges” (AVSA HANDBOOK)



# Questions and Answers

