

African Violet

African Violets are one of the most beloved flowering houseplants around. They are endless in their beauty and simplicity. African Violets have lovely green velvety leaves that grow in a rosette pattern and produce the most charming little flowers. These little beauties can live a long time in the right conditions, so give them a try.

Size: Short round rosettes that don't get much over 6" tall.

Exposure: Indirect diffused light.

How to Plant: Plants like to be a bit root bound, so don't repot often.

Pruning: Just remove dead or dry leaves.

Water: Important! Water plant from above or below, but don't water the leaves or root crown. Use room temperature water. Wet the pot thoroughly, then only water when the soil is dry to the touch. Do not let plant stand in water more than 2 hours after watering.

Fertilization: Use African Violet liquid plant food every 2 – 4 weeks. Apply on moist soil only.

Soil: African Violets need a fast draining soil, but one that retains moisture. Use 3 parts peat moss to 1 part perlite and 1 part compost or sterilized loam. Commercial potting mixes are available.

Propagation: From leaf cuttings, divisions or seeds.

Snapshot: African Violets are native to East Africa, but are now grown as hybrids. They come in many different shapes and sizes. They have velvety leaves that can be pointed or roundish in shape or variegated. Some have a scalloped leaf edge. Hybrids have different shaped flowers and come in single, double, ruffled, or fringed varieties. All come in a beautiful array of colors from blue and pink shades, whites, yellow and even a burgundy. They are great long lasting houseplants if you follow the simple guidelines above. They do love humidity, so place a saucer filled with pebbles and water underneath the pot. Don't let the water wick up into the plant. This keeps the humidity higher around the plant.

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