



CARE INSTRUCTIONS

AFRICAN VIOLETS

African Violets (also known as Saintpaulia) are relatively easy to keep and are great plants for beginner gardeners and bring a cheerful pop of color to their surroundings.

WATER:

With each watering; soak the entire soil ball, preferably with distilled water or water that has been allowed to sit for 24 hours before using. Allow for full drainage, avoiding water collection at the base of your pot. Between waterings, never allow the soil to dry out completely, but water when the top inch of soil is dry. Use room temperature water and avoid getting water on the crown and the leaves.

HUMIDITY:

High humidity is beneficial for African Violets, so don't locate them near heat sources which will dry them out. Placing violets in bathrooms or near humidifiers can help. You can also place them above a tray filled with pebbles, perlite, or sand so they can enjoy the humidity from evaporation day and night. Just don't allow them to sit in water, as they can suffer from root rot very easily.

SUNLIGHT & TEMPERATURE:

Place your African Violet where it will get plenty of bright, indirect light, but avoid direct sunlight. African violets need more light than you might think. A north or east facing window is usually best. In order to maintain a nicely shaped plant, turn the pot occasionally to ensure that it's getting light on all sides. Violets grow best in temperatures from 65-70F (night) with only a 10-15F increase in temperature during the day. If your plants are on a window sill, remove them at night or put paper between the plants and the window to protect them from chilling and leaf damage

REPOTTING:

African Violets like being a bit root-bound, so transplant only every couple of years and only in a slightly larger pot with good drainage. Use a potting mix that is specifically formulated for African Violets, or one that is high in organic matter but loose, and add Perlite for additional aeration and drainage. (Do not use garden soil!) Pack the potting mix *loosely* and *carefully* around the roots.

PEST CONTROL:

Fortunately, African Violets aren't bothered by many pests, although mealy bugs, mites, and thrips are sometimes a problem. If you see pests, isolate/quarantine your plant immediately to avoid having the insects infest other plants. Treat according to the type of insect, knowing that several applications may be necessary to completely rid the violet of unwanted insects, and do not reintroduce the plant to your other plants until pests are completely gone.

FERTILIZER:

Like most plants, African Violets would rather be under fertilized than over fertilized. For best results, use a fertilizer that is specially formulated for their nutritional needs, and follow the instructions.