

# THRIPS and African Violets

Someone has said that, if you grow African Violets, you have either: Had Thrips, Have Thrips, or Will have Thrips! They come into your house on new plants, on your clothes, on your pets, through your screens and windows! There are about 5500 Thrips species described worldwide, and not all thrips look alike.

If you see spilled pollen on leaves, there's a good chance it's from Thrips.

Here is a home remedy for treating thrips from Carol's African Violets which Carol says she has used with great success:

(<http://carolsavs.miniviolet.com/tips.html>).

"I use 1/2 Teaspoon of RID's "Maximum Strength" shampoo for treating head lice, added to 1 quart of warm water in a spray bottle. Add the RID to the water, not the water to the RID, in order to reduce foaming. After you've secured the top to the spray bottle, mix it by turning the bottle upside down several times. Then, after fully disbudding your plants (this means removing ALL of the bloomstalks), spray the entire plant thoroughly and be sure to spray the undersides of the leaves. Wear gloves, even dishwashing gloves, when using any kind of insecticide. Avoid inhaling the RID water mist. Keep the plant tilted while you spray so excess water runs off freely. Then leave the sprayed plants in the bathtub overnight to dry completely. Remove water that has collected in the crown (center) of the plant with a tissue; this helps prevent crown rot."