

TIPS FOR KEEPING YOUR AFRICAN VIOLETS PROBLEM FREE

1. Observe your plants often.
 - Daily is best. Whether it's your plants, your children, your husband – checking on them often is important to their (and your) well-being. If there's a problem, it's always easier to "nip it in the bud." So, if you see a sucker forming, remove it earlier rather than later. If allowed to grow, suckers often destroy the symmetry of your plant.
2. Consistent care is key.
 - Watering
 - Fertilizing
 - Repotting
 - Cleaning trays, matting, pots, labels
3. Good air circulation is important. If you don't have ceiling or other type fans, use clip-on fans. If you don't have good air circulation, you're more apt to get problems such as mold or powdery mildew.
4. No over-crowding! Easy to say, hard to do! We've always got to have "just one more plant!" You'll never have a show plant if your plants are crowded or even touching other plants.
5. If buying new plants:
 - Buy only from reputable sources – those which have proven themselves to sell only high-quality, bug-free plants.
 - If you're concerned about buying plants and introducing them into your collection, perhaps it would be wise to just buy leaves.
 - When adding new plants to your collection, be sure to isolate for one month at a minimum. Some suggest a 3-month quarantine.
6. Keep in mind that African violets are really quite inexpensive. What's the worst thing that can happen if your plant has a problem and doesn't look good? That's right – death! Get tough on your plants. If they don't perform well, get sick or otherwise just don't bring joy to you, give them a nice funeral and buy a new plant!