



'VIOLET TALK'

May June 2016

3/2016

The AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY of WA (Inc.)

Affiliated with the Gesneriad Council of Australia and New Zealand

Founded August 1965

PO Box 197, Como 6952.



Glitter Surprise



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Please contact any of the above members through the Secretary for Society related matters using wa.inc.avs@gmail.com or mobile 0407 702 879			

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

The initial focus of this issue is on Annual May Show Championships and I am delighted to report 130 entries were contributed by our growers. Photos and a list of winners and some of the entries later in this newsletter. I wish to thank the committee for their support and the members who were rostered to be able to speak to the public.

Thanks so much to Glenda Maxwell-McGinn, the Manager of the Kardinya Park Shopping Centre and Eric Rogers of Metway WA. This is an excellent venue and their staff were so helpful and supportive to us. We were able to display four large posters at the main entrances advertising our event. This was complimented by other advertising in the Fremantle Herald and on Curtin Community radio.

The public was tremendous and several visitors came from as far south as Busselton and as far north as Geraldton.

Also many thanks to the WA Horticultural Council for supplying the Championship sashes in the two categories in the Open event.

Our growers did an outstanding job in their respective exhibits considering the difficult weather conditions in the months leading up to the Championships.

To Reiko Lee, I extend special thanks for consolidating and collecting all of those entries and with the committee assisting and compiling cards and checking the entries. Your current Secretary Jacqui Bateman is outstanding in maintaining the administrative, public relations and communication side of the Society's day to day business and is forever checking paperwork. I thank her from the bottom of my heart for her support, creativity, inspiration and assistance in these matters.

Diana Osler assisted by Pauline Ellerker did a fine job with the cashier role and we will benefit as a Society from the outcomes of the Show. Certainly the growers are to be commended and I thank them for the support and expertise they provide. Certainly the Society still needs new growers and I encourage one and all to promote our activities, spirit, beauty and fellowship that being a member will bring.

Our next major display is at the South Perth Civic Centre in early September with the WA Horticulture's Garden Clubs and Societies Fair.

Most importantly the AGM is only two months away so please consider the role that you can play and contribute in the Society's near future. Please fill out a nomination form for one of the Executive positions or the Positions of Importance. The Society needs your ideas and participation in its organisation and meetings.

On a sadder note we saw the passing of Margaret Green and we will miss her smile, friendliness at the door and when drawing raffles. Margaret had a great love of African violets and to her family we extend our sincere sympathies.

With winter now on us, our theme is to make us vigilant, ensure our plants are disease and pest free. There are a number of articles providing information about pests and diseases that can cause problems for all. Our normal Table Competition resumes this month, so bring along your entries and show us what you are doing and how you can improve for next year's Annual May Show.

Eric Bateman

Welcome, Welcome, Welcome to our New Members

We welcome Alireza Shikani (just call me Ali), Rosemary Hannell, Rhiannon LaRosa (Aileen's granddaughter) and Ruth Green (Albany) to our Society and are so pleased to have you join us.

What's Winter Doing to MY Violets?

Ruth Coulson

Winter again, and yes, cold does affect African violets.

Originating, as the species do, in tropical east Africa, they really prefer mild to warm temperatures to give of their best. At temperatures below about 15⁰C the plants will start to show signs of stress, and below 12°C real problems may develop. At even lower temperatures growth stops and plants may suffer permanent harm.



We who live in areas where winters are fairly brief and mild know that we are fortunate in comparison with people in really freezing climates. Just a few brief months of cold nights and mild days, and then our violets will be growing happily again. But in the meantime ...

Common effects of cool temperatures:

- Fewer flowers, if any, are produced
- Buds fail to open, especially if cool temperatures combine with low humidity
- Growth slows right down.
- Leaves tend to be smaller and become quite brittle.
- Leaf edges curl down around their margins.
- Leaves curl down around the pot.
- Slower growth may leave the potting mix too wet, leading to crown rot.
- Cool nights, especially if combined with warmer days, can give rise to powdery mildew.

How to avoid problems?

Try to grow your African violets in the warmest room of the house. Remember, a room which seems beautifully warm during the day may be very cold at night and these night temperatures must be considered. A kitchen or laundry, where the hot water heater, freezer and refrigerator are constantly giving off heat can be ideal spots for African violets during winter.

Don't leave plants next to a cold window at night, especially never leaving them in the very cold area between curtains and window glass. If you grow your plants on window sills, it is a good idea to move them away at night. If

this is not possible, a sheet of insulating material (e.g. cardboard or Styrofoam sheeting) slipped between the plants and the glass overnight will probably help a little.

Particularly precious or easily cold-damaged plants may be placed in a terrarium for extra protection. Check frequently for mould and mildew problems.

Where heating reduces indoor humidity compensate by frequent misting with warm water, standing on moist pebble trays, etc.

Keep plants together so that the resulting microclimate that they produce is to their mutual benefit. This reminds me of the Emperor penguins huddling in enormous numbers to withstand the rigors of the Antarctic winter!

Keep away from open doors and windows to minimize gusts of cold air.

If growing on light stands, follow the lead of some of our growers by encasing the stand in plastic from just before the lights turn off until after they turn on again. This will maximize the warming effect of the lights and keep temperatures up during the night. Check for fungal problems and for moisture damage to shelves.

Other growers keep lights on at night and off during the day to take advantage of the heat of the lights during the coldest period.

In much colder areas, running a small heater during the coldest part of the night might be considered necessary.

During a cold winter choose not to:

- Do major repotting
- Set down leaves for propagation (especially variegated types)
- Plant seeds

There is an up-side to winter.

Where temperatures are cool (but not so cold they actually damage the plant), benefits may include:

- Larger flowers
- More intense colour in the flowers
- More pronounced fantasy markings
- More pronounced white or coloured edges to flowers
- Accentuated doubleness of flowers
- Richer green in the foliage
- More pronounced foliage variegation seen

Another, possibly unseen benefit is that *mites, thrips and other nasties* are said to reproduce more slowly during cold weather. We all need to continue to be vigilant, however, but perhaps problems will not be so bad.

And, of course, spring will soon be here!

ANNUAL MAY SHOW CHAMPIONSHIPS

Winners are gridders and the Open division heralded Reiko Lee, Aileen LaRosa and Jacqui Bateman as the exhibitors who took the main awards with their respective entries.

When: Wednesday 4th to Saturday 7th May 2016 inclusive.

Where: Kardinya Park Shopping Centre.

Theme: Colour Parade, thanks to Alan Humphreys.

Attendance: Casual shoppers and persons responding to information from various sources. Four visitors came from south west as far as Busselton, two came from Geraldton and one from Gingin specifically to view the Show.

Restrictions: Those travelling from northern suburbs were disappointed that they had to wait until Saturday to pick up Show plants.

Centre Management: Very happy with allocated space, proceedings and their staff were very helpful in the security, setting up and disassembling of the tables.

Advertising: Four Posters were supplied (courtesy of GCPA) for the Shopping centre's two entrances a week before and during the Show. Advertised in the Fremantle Herald Times one week prior, mentions on Curtin Community radio and ABC Saturday morning gardening segment. Home page on website.

Display: New idea of "birthday cake" centrepiece to highlight winning entries. Looked good, 1.5m height due to restrictions, too wide for some.

Entries: 130 single entries into 27 of 39 categories. Three of the categories required three plants each.

Championship Awards: There were five entries in the African violet Championship and two in the Gesneriad Championship. Reiko Lee (Gesneriads Sash), Aileen LaRosa (African Violet Sash) and Jacqui Bateman (Overall Best Open Grower) entered these categories.

Growers: Four Open growers contributed 70% of entries. The novice and Intermediate growers numbered seven. Full credit to all of them with the lead up of unseasonal hot weather in March and April.

Two other growers did not enter due to timeliness.

Judging: Thanks so much to Norma Dougall and Colleen McCormick in the Open and Artistic divisions and Aileen LaRosa and Reiko Lee for judging the Intermediate and Novice classes.

Sales: Very pleasing, most of Show plants were sold, good returns for AV sales plants (no figures available at this time) and some supplies specifically AV were sold.

Sponsorship: The Kardinya Park Shopping Centre provides the AVS-WA Inc. with internal main avenue space free of charge. Thanks again for the support from WA Horticultural Council for supplying the State Championship Sashes and Certificates. They are very highly regarded by our growers.



Bluey



Jazztime



Pat's Terrarium



Rob's Whodunit



Jacqui explaining the wick watering option



Wrapping it up – Diana at work



RD's True Blue



Jacqui with visitors from our south



Narelle daughter of Sandra Ashton with Pat



Aileen discussing options

Championship and Trophy Presentation:

The presentations were held on a day with pelting rains, strong winds and debris all over the place with our brave members turning up regardless. All the winners were

presented their Sashes and respective trophies. We had a fabulous finger food luncheon and we were blessed with the attendance of life members June Woodley and Arthur Morris. Congratulations to all who participated in our Annual May Show as without you there is no possibility to present to the public.

 <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Presentation Table</i></p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">The array of trophies</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Aileen receiving Queen of the Show from Diana</p>
 <p style="text-align: center;">Arthur and Daughter</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Arthur with daughter</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Heinz's Starfish</p>
	
<p style="text-align: center;">Peter Fry with Jacqui Princess of Standards</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Reiko Princess of Miniatures receiving Arthur's Joan Morris Perpetual Trophy</p>
	
<p style="text-align: center;">Repeat Performance</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Crinkle Blue</p>



It was a great sight to see our winners receiving rewards for their respective growing efforts and Arthur Morris had some fun with Reiko in that presentation. Arthur also generously provides a smaller version of the Joan Morris Perpetual Trophy. Reiko drank to his continued health.

Continuing with the trophy photos:



Peter with Princess of Trailers Aileen



Diana with Reiko and the Colleen McCormick Set of Three Trophy



Jay's Icecastle



Set of Three



Arthur with Reiko Princess of Gesneriads



Diana presenting Jacqui Best Overall Exhibitor



Reiko presenting Peter Fry with the Best Intermediate Exhibitor



Aileen presenting Colleen Fry with the Best Novice Exhibitor



June presenting Reiko the Gesneriad Championship Sash and Certificate



June presenting Aileen the African Violet Championship Sash and Certificate

PESTS AND DISEASES

The cold of winter invades our days and one might say that an indoor plant like our beautiful range of Saintpaulias would be safe and sound. However, providing just the right environmental conditions can be difficult at times when temperatures drop into single figures overnight, there is moisture in the air and power costs seem to be escalating every time a new State budget is released.

There are four articles that will be presented in the following pages. This follows the workshop that is part of our June 18th general meeting where our experienced growers will help other members to look out for the signs, how to combat them and what treatment has worked for them.

Many of African violet people from the eastern states African violet organisations have found solutions and published commentaries on these subjects from which much of the material is drawn and we are so very grateful.

POWDERY MILDEW

One of the main problems facing African violet growers at this time of year is powdery mildew. Powdery Mildew is caused by the Oidium fungus and can be eradicated from your African violets.

Powdery Mildew may vary from grower to grower depending on the individual growing conditions; it is not uncommon for powdery mildew to show up on the African violets of even the most experienced and expert of growers.

WHAT IS IT? it is the most common disease you will encounter in the growing of African violets. It is a fungus which shows up in autumn, winter and spring when days are warm but nights are cold. As it is currently here in Perth.

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE? You will see it as white powder on the outer leaves and stems of the flower? It will mark the leaves and the flowers will be stunted and wither quickly. If left unchecked it will spread through your collection.

Mildew is, of course, a fungal problem. In its early stages, it may be just an inconspicuous light dusting of very fine powder on a leaf or two; or sometimes an isolated spot about the size of a small coin. Consequently, the initial onset of powdery mildew can be easily missed or overlooked.



If not attended to promptly and effectively, the mildew can develop into a thick coating of whitish powder on the leaves (particularly the outer ones), and also on

flowers, buds and stalks. The end result can be a very unattractive and unhealthy looking plant.



TREATMENT:

There are many commercial horticultural products on the market that can no doubt rightly claim to provide effective control of fungal problems such as mildew. However, when applied as a spray to African violets, many of these fungicides are unacceptable, being prone to leave an unsatisfactory residue. The use of a much diluted solution of household bleach to prevent/control mildew on African violets is worth trying as a cheaper alternative if you haven't already done so.

Last winter, it became apparent for a number of reasons that it was needed to take some further or special steps to better ensure that any leaves being put down for propagation were sterile, meaning, in this context, clean and free of mildew spores or any other undesirables.

It was at this time that "bleach" was added to the shopping list and purchased a bottle of premium bleach for use whenever necessary either:

[a] as a dip of 1 part bleach to 10 parts of water to sterilise leaves for propagation; or [b] as a mist spray to prevent/control mildew on planted-out leaves, non-flowering plantlets etc., and any affected plants. The spray dilution rate adopted was 1 part bleach to 20 parts of water. Use room temperature water for spray mixes but accept that others feel that tepid water is the only way to go.

A factor to keep in mind is that the strength or measure of available chlorine bleach may be further reduced over the life of the product if it is subjected to, or stored at, temperatures in excess of 25 degrees for an extended period, which is probably the situation in some plant rooms particularly in the summer months. It has also been suggested that the use of hot water in making up the spray may similarly affect the level of chlorine.

Certain conditions around the African violets in their growing environment are generally blamed for the development of powdery mildew. For example: extended periods of very high humidity, poor air movement around the plants, inadequate light intensity, fluctuating day/night temperatures, cold draughts and overcrowded plant stands.

The easiest solution is to wash the leaves by spraying them with warm water. You can remove the flowers rather than trying to wash them so no water will get into the crown.

Prevention is best. Try the treatment but if it's not working get rid of the plant as powdery mildew will damage your collection. However if you can keep the problem at bay, as weather conditions change, the fungus will cease to be so active. Give one of our experienced growers a call or ask at the monthly meeting.

CYCLAMEN MITE *Australian African Violet Association*

The mites are far too small to see with the naked eye; however, the damage they cause can be easily seen. Young centre leaves become distorted and brittle and of a greyish appearance, appear exceptionally hairy, and they fail to grow or may even diminish in size so that the centre of the plant just fades away, and you have lost the growing point. Flowers may become distorted or flecked or fail to open properly. Unfortunately, mites are easily spread from plant to plant, especially where plants are touching, or they may be spread by the hands or tools of the grower

Treatment of infested plants



Photo by Keith Kennedy Early Morn AVS

Many growers discard the plants showing signs of infestation, particularly if the damage is severe. Others spray the infested plant and keep it. Such infested plants, even after spraying, should be kept separate from all other plants. Where plants are discarded, leaves are commonly taken for propagation. These leaves are carefully washed in a bleach solution or soapy water before rinsing and planting.

Whether or not infested plants are discarded, growers report that they treat the remaining plants in order to contain the infestation.

Some growers prefer to dip or drench their plants when treating them. It was mentioned that when spraying be sure to cover all parts of the plant, particularly the underneath of the inside leaves if using a contact spray such as Kelthane. Treatment is carried out three or more times at intervals of 5 to 7 days.

Prevention: (growers use one or more of the following)

- Spraying as a routine measure, say every three weeks, or once in autumn and once in spring, or only when an infestation is present
- Spraying newly acquired plants or those returned from a show or display
- Discarding any suspect plants
- Isolation of newly acquired plants
- Placing pest strips among plants as a deterrent.

Chemicals used

Kelthane (active ingredient Dicofol) is the most commonly used chemical. It is a specific miticide. Also used to treat mite is Thiodan (active ingredient Endosulfan) and Malathion. Confidor is an environmentally friendly miticide to use.

MEALYBUG

Female mealybugs hide their eggs in the fluffy white excretions and mostly breed in warm and humid weather. Eggs hatch in about 10 days, producing crawlers or nymphs. The nymphs relocate to another part of the plant and spend another 4 to 8 weeks developing into the adult form. A mealybug is about 4mm long, and covered in a lovely layer of white powder. They also release toxic saliva that can seriously damage plants.



How to Get Rid of Mealybugs

Like most pests, the best control for mealybugs is defensive. Healthy, vigorous plants are less susceptible to infestation than weak, underpotted, and stressed plants. As a general rule, make sure

your plants are healthy, and you're less likely to attract these annoying critters in the first place. If you see mealybugs on your plants, there are several control options:

- *Wash them away.* Mealybugs can be dislodged with a steady stream of water. Repeat the treatment as necessary. This is best for light infestations.

- *Insecticidal soap.* Insecticidal soaps

are available on the market, or you can make your own by using a dish detergent. Try to find a product free of perfumes and additives that might harm plants. Mix the soap



in a weak concentration with water (starting a 1 teaspoon per 4 litres and increasing as necessary). Spray on plants.

- *Neem oil.* Neem oil is a fungicide and has systemic benefits (meaning the plant absorbs it so it can control insects it doesn't directly contact). Some growers recommend washing the plant a few days after application.

- *Kitchen insect spray.* To make a batch, combine 1 garlic bulb, 1 small onion, and 1 teaspoon of cayenne pepper in a food processor or blender and process into a paste. Mix into 1 litre of water and saturate for 1 hour. Strain through a cheesecloth and add 1 tablespoon of liquid dish soap. Mix well. The mixture can be stored for up to 1 week in the refrigerator.



NEMATODES

Are tiny parasite thread-like worms and if you examine the roots of your plants and see swollen knot-like areas on your roots then you probably have nematodes. They are usually introduced by using contaminated soil. They are hard to get rid of, and systemic granules are probably the only means of getting rid of them, but if you do find them in your plants you would probably be best advised to dispose of the plants and the soil you have been using. Thoroughly clean up everything and start again. Nematodes can also affect your leaves on the Saintpaulia. Don't panic, it happens rarely unless you use soil from your garden.

THRIPS – Ruth Coulson

What are thrips and why are we worried about them?

Most gardeners know thrips as a pest in gladioli and other flowers. Only occasionally have we been troubled by these thrips on indoor plants, and if they did venture in, they were mostly eradicated with the simple spray of a pesticide of low toxicity. But what we are dealing with now may be a different thrips - the feared Western Flower Thrips, more formally known as *Frankliniella occidentalis*.



Western Flower Thrips is endemic in North America and has been established in New Zealand for 60 years. It is also found in other countries including Japan, parts of Africa and Central America, and more recently Europe. It has been seen in Australia for several years. Many of our members have experienced a thrips infestation of their plants which led me to believe that the thrips troubling us is

Western Flower Thrips. None of us have, so far as I know, had these thrips formally

identified. Personally, I have been more interested in their eradication than in preserving some for identification by an entomologist.

According to experts, they are impossible to distinguish from other thrips species with the naked eye. Any small (1mm long) pale yellow or buff coloured thrips could be Western Flower Thrips, and only with the use of a microscope (>50x mag) can the distinguishing long black spines on the front edge of the shoulders be observed. The small size of the insects and their thin narrow shape also makes it very difficult to even tell their colour, because what one grower sees as brown is likely what another calls buff.

I feel that identification is not the most important issue. Other thrips which may infest your violets will do similar damage, and they may be eradicated in similar fashion. The big difference is that WFT is resistant to many pesticides, and thus much more difficult to deal with.

So what do thrips look like, and what damage do they cause on African violets?

As already said they are narrow in shape up to 1mm long and pale yellow to buff in colour. The accompanying drawing gives some idea of their appearance.

They are not easy to see on your plants because they have a retiring habit and will usually shelter in the more hidden parts of the plant and the flower. You will soon know that they are present! However, you will see the damage which they cause, particularly when they feed on the pollen of the flowers. Our club members have reported the following damage caused by thrips:



- Flowers dying prematurely, becoming soft and mushy
- Flowers rapidly becoming dried out and paper-like
- Pollen spilled on the petals of the flowers
- Visible damage to the pollen sacs where thrips have been feeding
- An all over dusty look to the flowers caused by faint spillage of pollen
- Flowers becoming brown along the sides

of the petals and sometimes all petal edges

- Buds failing to open, or if they do open, having no stamens
- Semi-transparent spots appearing on the flowers
- Flowers never reaching their expected size.

Some leaf damage has also been attributed to thrips, but as none of our members have seen the thrips actually eating the leaves, it is hard to know whether this was the result of thrips or of one of the multitude of other possibilities.

If your plants have some of the above symptoms, then you may have an infestation of thrips, especially if you find that there is hardly a fresh, healthy flower to be found. However, do realize that each and every one of these symptoms can have other causes. Flowers can become dried out and buds refuse to open because of very low humidity. Pollen sacs can also be nibbled by cockroaches, mice, and other pests.

So you will have to examine the flowers carefully to be sure. Use a good light and a strong magnifying glass to look at the flowers carefully. Sometimes, flicking the stamens with your fingers will send thrips running, and you will be able to see them. You may have to pull some flowers apart because the thrips may well be hiding right in the base. They may also be clustered on the back of the flower. If you are still not convinced, break open some buds. If there is damage to the pollen sacs even before the flowers have opened, it is virtually a certainty that you have a thrips infestation.

How do African violets become infested?

Probably the first thing you will ask is, "How could my plants get thrips?" The answer is, "All too easily". As you see from the illustration, thrips have wings. They can fly. They can also be wafted long distances on air currents, so what is to stop them from wafting right into your African violet growing area? Probably nothing!

As with other pests, you may bring them indoors on your hands or your clothing. They can hitch a ride on cut flowers, the family pet, or on plants that have been taken to a meeting. You can take steps to counter them:

- Burning mosquito coils.
- Placing tablets of camphor, naphthalene, or bathroom deodorizer among the plants.
- Spraying doorways, windows, ventilators, and all screens with surface spray.
- Hanging mini-pest strips among your plants (avoid breathing fumes especially in an enclosed area).

The Future

I have not gathered all this information in order to frighten you from ever growing African violets. That would certainly not be my aim. And yet, in a sense, I am trying to frighten you - just enough to alert you to the danger. Once aware of it, we will be able to deal with it much better.

But remember, it will be an ongoing fight. We will need to watch for the earliest signs of thrips on our plants. If they are dealt with early, it is probable that they will be easier to get rid of than if we wait until they become established.

Crown Rot



When suffering from Crown Rot, the African violet loses its vitality and if you move it in the pot it will seem loose instead of firm in the soil. Examine the roots and you will find that there aren't any. This is usually caused by overpotting and overwatering.

You may notice that even with moist soil your plants still wilt, turn yellow, and may eventually even die.

Violets affected like this are seldom worth saving but you may propagate from the leaves if there are any that are healthy enough.

Fungus Gnats



Fungus gnats are small dark flies (about 0.35mm in size) that look similar to mosquitoes and are often confused with fruit fly. They thrive in humid environments and breed in the damp soil of Saintpaulia and Gesneriads.

The larvae are what causes damage by eating the roots, root hairs and stems. The symptoms of an infestation can be stunted plant growth, wilting, yellowing leaves and rotting roots.

The adults feed on fungi at the top of the soil (where they lay their eggs) while the larva feasts on the roots.

Here is a collection of remedies to get them out of your house along with some tips for trying to control them:

- **Dry Them Out:** Allow the soil to dry very well to the point that your plants start to wither before watering again (approximately the top one to two inches of soil is completely dry). It needs to get this dry so the larvae in the soil will dry up completely (ending their cycle), the adults cannot breed in the dry soil so the cycle ends.
- **Sticky Traps:** You can purchase yellow sticky cards for the purpose of indoor insect control; these will work with fungus gnats. The idea is that the colour yellow will attract them and when they come to investigate, they will be stuck or trapped by the sticky substance on the card. Look for these in home and garden centres or greenhouse supply stores. If you'd like to try making your own, cover bright yellow index cards with Vaseline or Honey. Tape the card to a straw or chopstick and stick into the soil. Another easy sticky recipe is to mix equal parts petroleum jelly and liquid dish soap then use the goop to cover the yellow card.
- **Killer Soap Spray Recipe:** Mix 2 tablespoons of liquid soap or lemon dish detergent with 5 litres of water use this mixture to water and drench the soil that is hosting them. After about an hour, lightly spray the leaves with clear water to rinse the soap off.
- **DIY Trap:** Pour a tablespoon or two of apple cider vinegar into a small cup, top with water. Leave the cup near the plant with the problem. They will be attracted to the vinegar and will be killed by drowning.

Springtails

Springtails are tiny light coloured insects. Their size ranges from 0.25 to 6 mm. They get their name from a spring-loaded structure, called the furcula, located on the underside of their abdomen. When the insect is disturbed, the furcula is released causing the insect to be flung into the air. One jump can cover 10 centimetres. Springtails normally live in damp soil. They eat mould and fungus and can appear with the onset of Powdery Mildew. Ignore them, they do very little damage to the overall health of the plant. If their habitat starts to dry out, springtails begin to dehydrate and die.

Fertiliser Burn

Always be sure that soil is damp before feeding. Remember that the water



evaporates and the fertiliser not used accumulates in the soil. Too much will burn roots and cause hard, brittle foliage. Too little fertiliser will produce poor, light coloured or yellow growth with fewer blooms. Plants will tell much if observed closely. African violets are

slow growers and the effect of any change usually cannot be observed immediately.

Notice

These articles are brought to your notice because the threat is real and you can lose your babies by an invasion of your growing areas if care is not taken. Take simple precautions like not mixing outdoor gardening then going into your plants. Talk to other members and take care when you bring plants to the Society to inspect them closely as if you have a small collection, your plant can have a bug or disease that has potentially, a devastating effect on another member's perhaps larger collection.

 <p>African Violet Society of South Australia Inc.</p>	 <p>Early Morn African Violet Group Inc. African violets are addictive</p>	 <p>Hunter Valley African Violet Society Inc.</p>
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THE AUSTRALASIAN AFRICAN VIOLET COMMUNITY

 <p>KARDINYA PARK SHOPPING CENTRE South St, Kardinya</p>	 <p>2/11 Mallaig Way Canning Vale</p>	 <p>RICHGRO <i>Bring your garden to life</i></p> <p>Garden products to suit every requirement, Acourt Road Jandakot Celebrating 100 years</p>
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Subject to change

- **Monthly Meeting – Saturday, July 16th** at the Manning Activity Centre 3 Downey Drive Manning 12.30 pm to 3.30 pm. Members see the website for details.
- **Monthly Meeting – Saturday, August 20th**, details of the AGM published in the **Members Only** link on our website. Your chance to help your Society.



Celebrating 51 years

Visit our website www.waavsinc.com or Google *African Violet Society WA*