

# Wallsend Nurseries

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## African Violets

### Light:

Good light is essential for the plants to bloom well. Your violet should be placed within 45cm of an unshaded window, with protection from strong sunlight by fine curtains or a venetian blind. Naturally, your violet will grow towards the light so it is a good idea to turn the pot each week so as the whole plant gets a share of the light. This will prevent the plants from becoming lop-sided that is , growing in one direction. Not only do lop-sided plants look ungainly but they also won't produce an even crop of flowers in the centre.

### Watering:

These plants require a moist potting mixture but don't like it too wet. We recommend "Kenrose" or "Debco" brand potting mixes as these are ready tailored to suit your plants. These mixes combine good drainage characteristics with moisture holding capacity. Try to keep the plants evenly moist.

Kenrose make an excellent "self watering" pot just for your violets.

### Fertilizing:

"Kenrose" brand violet fertilizer is highly recommended. It can be applied at each watering if in a self watering pot or weekly if in a normal pot. It is specifically formulated to produce flowers & good green healthy foliage too.

### Ventilation:

African violets love fresh air but avoid placing your plant where it will be in a draught. Lack of ventilation will promote mildew problems & leaf spotting. Try to maintain good air circulation at all times. This is particularly important during the hot, humid weather normally experienced during Summer.

### Temperature:

Ideal temperature is 24 degrees c. during the day with a 6 degree drop during the night but violets will stand up to quite a wide temperature range. African violets love humidity . High temps retard flowering & low temps will retard growth & make the plant grow tightly in the centre.

### Flowering:

The African violet can produce flowers all year round under good conditions. It is a good idea to regularly remove any dead or spent flowers. Some varieties will stop flowering temporarily during the cooler months but will begin again once the temperature rises in spring.

### Grooming:

Violets seek to multiply by growing small plantlets from the main stem. For a well groomed plant these should be removed with the point of a pencil or something similar. Some flower buds start as a growth between 2 leaves so make sure you are removing a side-shoot & not a flower bud. Wait till the sideshoot has 3 distinct leaves. This does not apply to trailers which should be allowed to develop most of the side shoots to increase the size of the plant.

### Pests and Diseases:

The worst pests of African Violets are Cyclamen mite and Mealy bug. Usually it is best to discard plants infected with these pests as a cure is rarely satisfactory. You might like to try Kelthane® for the mite or Confidor® for the Mealy bug if absolutely necessary.