



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

FLAME VIOLET CARE

LIGHT

Flame violets (*Episcia*), including cupreata and colorful hybrids, prefer bright, indirect light. An east-facing window or suitable grow light works well. Shield the soft, patterned leaves from strong direct sun, which can scorch them. Low light can reduce flowering and make growth less compact.

WATERING

Keep the mix lightly moist, watering as the surface begins to dry. Use room-temperature water and direct it onto the mix rather than the leaves. Drain fully and empty the saucer. Reduce watering during slower winter growth, but do not give this evergreen plant a completely dry rest.

SOIL

Use a light, airy African violet or houseplant mix with good drainage. A small, shallow pot with drainage holes suits its fine roots. Repot crowded plants into only a slightly larger container. Keep the crown above the mix and remove fallen flowers before they decay.

TEMPERATURE & HUMIDITY

Keep warm, ideally in a stable room around 65-80°F. Protect carefully from chilly glass and cold drafts; temperatures near 50°F can be fatal. Provide high humidity with a humidifier or suitable growing enclosure. Pink and white variegated types especially benefit from a humid, protected environment.

FERTILIZING & GROOMING

Feed gently during active growth with a balanced fertilizer labeled for African violets or flowering houseplants. Follow its dilute feeding directions and reduce feeding when growth slows. Remove spent flowers and damaged leaves. Trim excess runners if needed, keeping a few healthy plantlets for a fuller trailing display.

PESTS & PROBLEMS

Inspect tender centers and runners for mites, aphids and mealybugs. Isolate affected plants before treatment; test any labeled spray on a small area because foliage is sensitive. Brown margins can indicate dry air or dry roots. Soft stems and leaf spots call for checking excess moisture and air circulation.