



*For the joy of gardening!*

**Estabrook's**

## AFRICAN VIOLET CARE

### **LIGHT**

African violets (*Saintpaulia*, now included in *Streptocarpus*) prefer bright, indirect light. An east- or north-facing window often suits them. Protect velvety leaves from hot direct sun. A grow light can supplement dim winter daylight; poor light commonly results in long leaf stalks and fewer flowers.

### **WATERING**

Use room-temperature water when the surface begins to dry, keeping the mix lightly moist. Water the soil carefully, avoiding the crown and splashes on leaves. For ordinary pots, drain and empty the saucer. For a designed self-watering pot, follow its reservoir instructions and use an airy wick-compatible mix.

### **SOIL**

Use a light, well-drained African violet potting mix, often improved with extra perlite. Fine roots need air and are easily damaged by soggy soil. Keep plants in modestly sized pots with drainage holes. Refresh old mix periodically, keeping the crown above the surface.

### **TEMPERATURE & HUMIDITY**

Steady temperatures around 65-75°F are ideal. Protect from cold glass, drafts and abrupt temperature changes. Moderate humidity, roughly 40-60%, supports growth. A humidifier can help in very dry rooms; avoid routine misting that leaves the furry foliage wet.

### **FERTILIZING**

Use a mild African violet fertilizer at its labeled dilution while the plant is actively growing. Moisten dry mix with plain water before feeding. Flush ordinary pots periodically to reduce salt buildup, allowing them to drain thoroughly. Avoid strong fertilizer concentrations, especially in reservoir systems.

### **PESTS & GROOMING**

Inspect for mealybugs and mites, isolating affected plants before treatment. Remove spent flowers and damaged leaves with clean tools. Brush dust off gently with a soft, dry brush. A soft crown or collapsing leaves can indicate rot; check moisture and drainage before adding water.