REEMS CREEK NURSERY

Saintpaulia
African Violets

A Garden Guide



African violets (*Streptocarpus* sect. *Saintpaulia*) are classic house plants, native to tropical cloud forests of Tanzania. These compact plants with various flower colors and velvety-soft fuzzy leaves can brighten up small spaces. Their mature sizing is 4-8″T x 8″W.

Watering: African violets prefer rainwater. Other options include tap water that has been left out overnight, reverse osmosis water, or charcoal filtered water. **Avoid getting the foliage wet**. The easiest watering method for most gardeners is bottom or tray watering. When your pots feel light, place them in a tray of water for 15-30 minutes, and then remove. Do not leave them in trays of water for an extended time. They will require less water in winter. They prefer to be on the drier side - the most common way of killing them is by overwatering. Always check the soil before watering.

Light: In the wild, they live in the tropical understory, with filtered medium light. African Violets do not want direct sunlight. You can determine the best location in your home by watching your plants closely. If the leaves develop long stems and reach up, they want more light. If the leaves look like they are bleaching from the sun, they want less. African Violets prefer to be between 65-85°F.

Fertilizing: We carry African Violet fertilizer. Follow instructions. Generally speaking, a little amount more often gives better results than a lot rarely. Some gardeners heavily dilute house plant fertilizers and use every time they water their plants.

Potting Mix: Many gardeners like to add extra perlite to their basic houseplant mix, in order to give their African Violets proper drainage. This helps to prevent overwatering issues. For more information, check the African Violet Society of America's website.

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