

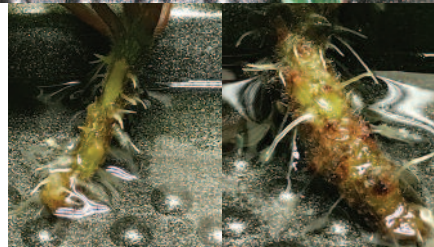
Rooting African Violet Crowns

By Winston J. Goretsky

Occasionally, or even routinely, it is necessary to break apart a larger plant that has become old or out of shape and rejuvenate it to encourage fresh new growth. This is also a good way to start a new plant that you might have purchased or recently received.

Begin by rooting your crown cuttings in a shallow tray of water and cover them with a clear container to maintain humidity. This will allow the crowns to form roots over a short period of time.

Once the crowns have rooted, they are ready to be potted into a container. Starting with a smaller pot size first, this allows the plant to grow into its pot before moving it up into a larger size later. The reason this is important, is that the root mass needs to breathe and will remain much wetter than it needs to be if the pot is initially too large.



This method shows a 2 1/2 inch pot with a wick. Fill the pot half way with your potting mix and then lay the wick around that layer. Fill the pot the remainder of the way and use a tool to create a hole in the middle of the potting mix.

Take the rooted crown and place it into the hole and take care to ensure that it is centered in the middle of the pot. The crown of the plant should be level with the soil. Gently press the soil around the plant to ensure that it is firmly in place.

Place the pot with the newly planted crown in shallow water, to allow the wick and soil to draw up moisture into the potting mix.

To help prevent transplant shock and to encourage good healthy growth, keep the newly potted plants in a container with a clear cover, to maintain humidity, which will help the plant develop its new roots and prevent any potential setbacks.

Once the plant begins to grow, the humidity cover can gradually be removed and the plant can be introduced to your typical growing environment.

Newly potted plants should begin to thrive and show signs of healthy new growth within a few weeks. This method is also good for an old plant that has developed a neck and needs to be restarted.

