

Updates for 2022 Edition of AVSA Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges
Updates as of 11/01/2023

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Sept./Oct. 2023	p. 11-12	Accessories should not determine overall height in container gardens.	p. 69, #2
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Violet Magazine beginning with the November/December 2023 issue. If you have an old hard copy form you have been using to send in the show winners by mail, you will want to download and print a new one from www.africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org so the 2nd Best in Show will be reported. Sign in as a member, click on Leaders, then AVSA Shows and Judges, Shows and finally Affiliate Show Awards Report. You can choose to send the completed form electronically or print a hard copy to mail.

Please note that an Unusual or Novelty African violet class is no longer permitted as a class in shows. Likewise, a separate class for windowsill-grown plants will not be allowed in an AVSA-sponsored show. If an affiliate wishes to include any of these, it is recommended these classes be placed after the Educational/AVSA Display. Although it may still be judged, the blue ribbons should not be counted on the SSA sheet, nor should these plants be eligible for special awards.

It is highly recommended that the panel judging collections refrain from tying scores on violets in a collection. By doing so, the final panel is left in a predicament. Even if plant scores are one-tenth apart, at least there is a difference. All final panel members should review the collection sheet scores when choosing plants for the awards table. A point score may easily be misread by a single panel member. At the completion of judging, all AVSA Collection Score Sheets should be placed in an envelope along with the SSA form, then the envelope should be sealed. It should then be given to the Show Chair for mailing. As is stated on page 51 of the 2022 *AVSA Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges*, "Any exhibitor who would like to know the exact point-scoring on their own collection entries can write the Schedule Approver to request those results."

Use caution when selecting a container for a dish garden. Some are being used that are too deep and would not be considered a shallow container. If a container is used that the judges deem too deep, the exhibit may have points deducted under relation to container.

Although driftwood may be used effectively in a container garden as an accessory, the highest point in the container garden should be achieved by using plant material. The size of the driftwood in comparison to the other plant material must also be considered. A container garden is a miniature landscape. The exhibitor must be cautious to use a piece of driftwood that is in proportion to the remainder of the plant material. If the driftwood is too large, points would be deducted under landscape plan due to a disproportionate scale.

Handbook Update, page 41

11. An exhibit ***may shall*** not be altered or removed after judging until the show is closed, except to replace blossoms in a design. (***See page 42, optional rule 9.***)

Handbook Update, page 42, add the following.

9. Depending upon the decision of the affiliate, this optional rule may be added to rule 11 on page 41. A leaf support may be placed on large standard plants if it is displayed on a pedestal on the Awards' Table. This allows heavy leaves to be supported, if needed to prevent petiole damage. The leaf support should not be readily visible.

Handbook Update, page 69

2. All plants shall be planted in the container and no cut plant material shall be permitted unless it is used as an accessory. Height in container gardens should be achieved with plant material and not accessories. Driftwood, branches, and slate/rock are accessories and may be used effectively in the

garden landscape, but not to achieve **overall** height. No bases are allowed in container garden classes and containers may not be placed within other containers.

Following the question-and-answer session at the Judges Breakfast, a PowerPoint of container garden slides showed everyone a

visual of various options for container gardens. A discussion helped educate those who attended. Be sure to add this breakfast to your convention agenda in Phoenix. You may win some raffle tickets or leaves to rare and desirable varieties.



Photo credit: Svetlana Repkina

RS-Pianistka

**2023 AVSA Convention
New Introduction**

Hybridized by: S. Repkina



Shows and Judges

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The fall shows have now concluded, and it is time to prepare for spring shows. Be sure to keep affiliate memberships as well as affiliate insurance up to date. A renewal notice is sent to affiliates in the month of November, so look forward to it arriving soon. If other affiliates are participating in a combined show or sale, they should all have a current AVSA affiliate membership as well as their own affiliate insurance. All clubs participating should be mentioned in the show schedule unless it is a council show. In that case, the council would have an affiliate membership and insurance. This ensures there is no question of liability if an unfortunate event should occur at a show or sale.

Encourage those in your club to attend the AVSA convention in Phoenix in 2024. Convention information and registration will be at www.africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org soon. In addition, a Virtual Circle Zoom program will be presented on January 12 as a sneak preview of the exciting upcoming convention highlights. This will feature our convention leaders: Candace Baldwin, Joyce Stork, Susan Anderson and Bill Patterson. Information about this Virtual Circle meeting is posted on

the website and will also be found in an email coming soon to your inbox. Get the inside scoop!

The Shows and Judges Committee and Executive Committee have approved the following updates to the 2022 *AVSA Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges*.

[Handbook change \(2022 edition\) p.11 \(foot-note\)](#)

Commercial growers are individuals or firms that advertise and sell African violet plants and/or other materials; pay commercial AVSA Membership dues.

[Handbook change, page 74. 1.](#)

~~1. All AVSA commercial members may enter all commercial classes.~~

1. AVSA Commercial members who offer plants or live plant material for sale as a part of a business shall exhibit in the commercial horticulture division of an AVSA Show. AVSA Commercial members who do not offer plants or live plant material for sale as a part of a business shall exhibit in the amateur horticulture division of an AVSA Show.

Happy holidays to you all!