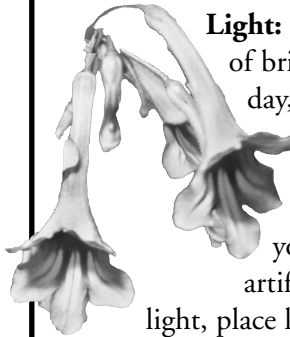


## African Violets & Streptocarpus



**Light:** Both of these plants require plenty of bright, but indirect, light during the day, however, they will tolerate direct morning sun. If natural sunlight is unavailable, or when it is diminished during the winter months, you may need to supplement with artificial light. When using artificial light, place lamps 12 -18 inches above plant and use full spectrum bulbs required to promote flowers and healthy growth. If situating your plants on a south or southwest facing windowsill, make certain to keep a sheer curtain between the plant and the window to prevent foliage from burning.

**Temperature:** A temperature range of 65 – 80 degrees Fahrenheit during the day is preferred by both African Violets and Streptocarpus. Night time temperature should be no lower than 60 degrees Fahrenheit.

**Humidity:** For healthy growth, these plants require a fair amount of humidity in the atmosphere. Moisture is removed from air that has air conditioned or heated and must be replaced. Using a humidifier or placing humidity trays under your plants is an excellent way to increase humidity in the air surrounding your plants; grouping plants together is also helpful. Avoid spritzing both African Violets and Streptocarpus leaves with water for the purpose of increasing humidity. Water sitting on the leaves of these plants will cause them to be unsightly.

**Water:** African Violets and Streptocarpus prefer moist soil that is allowed to dry to the touch before re-watering. Although these plants may be watered from above, it is best to water them from below. Set the pot in a container of water, at least one inch beneath the lip of the pot, allow the water to be wicked from below. Do not let the plant sit in the water more than 20 minutes or it may rot. There are also special pots available for

plants that prefer being watered from below. If you choose to water from above, keep water off the leaves and crown of the plant. Place the spout of your watering can between the plant leaves, close to the soil surface. Water should be at room temperature to avoid shocking the plants roots.

**Fertilization:** A fertilizer listed for African Violets is a good choice for both of these plants. *At Primex we recommend: Schultz 8-14-9 African Violet Plus or Jack's Classic African Violet 12-36-14*, both with micronutrients required by these plants. A high phosphorus (the middle number) fertilizer will stimulate and maintain flower growth. Follow the directions on your fertilizer container. We find it best to fertilize with a mild solution every time that you water, year round.

**Grooming:** It is a good idea to groom your plants each time you water. Remove any spent flowers, pinch off the stems of any leaves that have died, look closely for insects so that they may be controlled immediately.

**Repotting:** Being slightly pot bound is preferable for these plants, it helps stimulate flower production. When moving plant up to a larger pot, be certain to use a humus rich potting mix specially prepared for African Violets such as: *Miracle-Gro Enriched African Violet Potting Mix*. When repotting, do not increase pot size more than 2 inches in diameter. Also, plant high so that leaves are not resting on the lip of the pot; when situating these plants, place them where their leaves will not be touching anything else. African Violet and Streptocarpus leaves are tender and sensitive and damage very easily.

