

PREPARING VIOLETS TO SHOW

From:
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Apr
1

12 Weeks before show

1. Remove dead leaves, pot down (long necks) or pot up.
2. Disbud (you can actually start long before this if you don't mind your plants looking bare for a few months).
3. Set your fluorescent lights at 12 hours per day.
4. Correct any minor symmetry problems with tooth picks.

10 Weeks before show (February 12)

1. Increase light to 13 hours per day, dust off or replace fluorescent tubes with dark e
2. Fertilize: Switch to a "Bloom Booster" high phosphorus (high middle number) 5-55-17 or Schultz 10-60-10
3. If plants are not disbudded, disbud completely. Disbudding causes suckers to appear especially in minis and semiminis. Remove the suckers frequently.

9 Weeks before show (February 19)

1. Increase lights to 14 hours.
2. Fertilize with "Bloom Booster"
3. Disbud variegated varieties for the last time. Any buds just starting to show should be allowed to bloom. Continue to disbud all other varieties.
4. Check for suckers.

8 Weeks before show (February 26)

1. Increase lights to 15 hours per day.
2. Fertilize with a "Bloom Booster"
3. Disbud doubles for the last time. Future buds should be allowed to bloom. Continue to disbud semi-double stars and singles.
4. Check for suckers.

A "Bloom Booster" formula is used during the 8th, 9th, 10th weeks before a show to encourage maximum setting of buds. A "bloom booster" is any fertilizer formula in which about 70 per cent of the total formula is comprised of phosphorous. For the last weeks before show, a more balanced fertilizer is resumed to lessen the chance of off-sized leaves forming.

Apr
15

Apr 22

Apr
29

1. Disbud semi-double stars for last time.
2. Fertilizer: change to 12-36-14 or 15-30-15 for remaining weeks.
3. Continue lights at 15 hours per day.

6 Weeks before Show (March 11)

1. Disbud singles for the fast time.
2. Check for suckers.
3. Wash foliage with luke warm water and place in a warm area to dry (if you are growing in a window wash your plants in the evening and put them back in the window the next morning plants grown under lights can be put back immediately). In both cases dry the crown with a Kleenex.

May
13

5 Weeks before Show (March 18)

1. Lights may be increased to 16 hours per day if your bloom is slow developing and the weather is cool.
2. Check for suckers.
3. Fertilizer: continue using 12-36-14 or 15-30-15

May 20

2 Weeks before Show (April 8)

1. Even with the best of planning your timing can go awry. If your plants start to come into full bloom too early, cut back on your lights or move them into a cooler room.
2. Ensure your pots are clean, remove names from the sides of pots.

June
10

1 Week before Show (April 15)

1. Check and remove bloom stem stubs and spent blooms.
2. Check for suckers.
3. Brush leaves or wash plant if necessary.
4. Leaf removal. Many first time exhibitors show plants that still have baby leaves (a baby leaf is one from the lower row which is smaller than the others) or too many mature leaves on the bottom row: remember leaves grow in sets of three, check the symmetry and remove excess leaves.
5. Prepare box(s) to transport plants to the show.
6. Check the show schedule, confirm names of plants, decide which class to put them in and prepare a list of your plants.

June
17

24 hours before the show (April 22)

1. Water all plants with Sturdy (1 teaspoon per gal.)
2. Remove tooth picks or other leaf trainers. Place plants in boxes and use dry cleaning bags to separate and support the plants.

June
23

