

AFRICAN VIOLET

Botanical Name *Saintpaulia ionantha*

Ethylene Sensitivity Yes

Interior Light 100-400 foot candles. Lower or higher levels may adversely affect continued flowering. Plants should not be placed in direct sunlight.

Storage 60-65°F. Do not store more than 5 days.

Purchasing Hints Avoid discolored leaves as these may indicate chill damage. Buy and sell by cultivar name and take advantage of the established grades and standards for this species.

Consumer Life Many months to years.

Special Concerns Cold water on leaves and flowers can cause dead spots. Temperatures below 50°F cause chill disorders.

Additional Information Flowers are more sensitive to chill damage than leaves. For example, after storage for seven days at 60°F, 83 percent of the flowers were damaged, but none of the leaves were damaged. On average, flowers are two to three times more sensitive to low temperatures than leaves. Care should be taken to avoid mechanically-induced damage when sleeving or otherwise handling plants. Generally, over fertilization will reduce flowering.



African violet is named after the discoverer of the plant, Baron Walter von Saint Paul-Ille, 1860-1910. The specific name, ionantha, means violet-flowered.