

Streptocarpus Care Sheet

Temperature: Streps prefer cooler temperatures. The best range is 75–80° during the day and 60–65° at night. They are great candidates for any cooler area including windowsills. During high temperatures streps will wilt during the day, but recover during cooler temperatures.

Light: Equal to or greater than that given to African Violets. Bright light, but not direct sunlight.

Soil: Very light mix. I add one part perlite to two parts African Violet soil. Do not over pot. Plant your streps high in the soil so that the stems are above the soil line.

Water: Let your streps dry out occasionally. Sometimes they will wilt, but recover quickly when watered. Water with warm, fertilized water. I feed constantly with ¼ teaspoon of a AV formula and sometimes a bloom booster formula. Soil should be barely moist, but never soggy. Rotting is the fastest way to kill streps. If your strep is wilted and the soil is wet, check for rot by gently tugging on the top of the plant. If it comes free in your hand, it has rotted. Try to propagate some leaves to save the plant.

Humidity: Streps love high humidity. Low humidity causes the leaf tips and edges to turn brown. Mist your streps 2–3 times a day. Cool moist humid conditions are perfect for strep growing.

Grooming: Streps leaves can be groomed with scissors. You can cut back their length, cut off any brown spots, and remove older yellowing leaves. When potting up streps remove the baby leaves just as you do on African Violets.

Propagation: Three common methods of propagating streps:

1. **Seed:** Plant in regular mix by lightly sprinkling the seed on top of the soil. Do not cover the seed with soil, but leave exposed. Do cover the container with plastic wrap and set in a warm spot under lights. Seedlings will sprout in approximately two weeks. Keep seedlings covered until they are larger.
2. **Leaf cuttings:** There are two methods of propagating streps via leaf cuttings:
 - a. Cut the leaf into 3” portions across the stem. Place the cut end in barely moistened soil, cover container and place beneath the lights. Babies should appear in approximately one month. When babies are 3–4” in height, you may separate them from the mother leaf and pot up individually.
 - b. “Toaster” method. Cut the leaf along either side of the stem, and discard the main stem. Plant both sides with the cut side down in your soil. Cover and place beneath the lights. When the babies are approximately 3” in height, remove the other leaf and carefully either remove the babies from the mother leaf, or leaf portions of the mother leaf attached by cutting the leaf between each baby.
3. **Division:** When your plant is larger, you will notice several growing areas or divisions in your plant. Carefully cut between two growing areas and plant in separate containers.