

Welcome To The Wonderful World



Of Streptocarpus

What is a Streptocarpus?

- Member of the Gesneriad family
- From Greek words streptos (twisted) & karpos (fruit)
- Common name: Cape Primrose
- Native to parts of Africa & Madagascar
- 163 species are recognized by the Gesneriad Society
- Long leaves in a basal rosette and flowers like primroses
- First strep introduced into this country: *Streptocarpus rexii* in 1826
- First modern named hybrid was 'Constant Nymph', bred at the John Innes Institute in 1946
- Prized by collectors because of their large blooms & infinite color varieties

Types of Streptocarpus

- **Grandiflora** – Large bloom 1-2 per stem, large leaves as well
- **Multiflora** – Many medium or small blooms per stem
- **Unifoliate** – One large leaf with many blooms on multiple stems
- **Variegated** – have variegated leaves
- **Standards** – plain green leaves with single 5-6 petal blooms
- **Color Changers** – blooms open as one color & change to another color as bloom matures
- **Scented** – any hybrids crossed with *S. Vandeleurii* species – blooms will have a scent

Cousins of African Violets

- Similar growing conditions
- Can be wick or top watered
- Like AV s, they do not like to have their feet wet
- Can have the same pest problems
- AV fertilizer can be used but at a higher rate – never use a bloom booster. High nitrogen is toxic to streps
- Same soil mix with 1/3 more perlite
- Same light conditions as AV s but add 2 more hrs. per day
- Prefer more air circulation than AV s
- Both prefer high humidity
- Can be propagated the same as AV s but also by root division

Reasons To Love Streps

- Large, beautiful blooms in an infinite variety of colors
- Fast growers: you can propagate a leaf & have a plantlet bloom in less than 4 months
- Ease of grooming: multiple crowns & trimming of leaves are ok
- Ease of propagation: grow from a leaf or root division
- They bloom constantly with no dormant periods
- Less susceptible to insects than AV s & other houseplants
- Can be revived if plant droops from lack of water

Strep Care

- 12-14 hrs of bright indirect sunlight per day (10-14 on a lightstand)
- Ideal temperature between 70-80°F
- Wick/top water with fertilized water @ 1/4 tsp per gallon
- Use AV soilless mix with 1/3 perlite added.
- Prefer high humidity. Can be misted 1-3 times a day.
- Good air circulation is key to prevent mold & fungus.
- Repot @ 3 months for babies & young plantlets & @ 6 months for mature plants.
- Trim leaves with brown edges & extra long ones when there is little center growth
- Remove old leaves that have no new bloom stalks

Strep Propagation

- **Root Division** – Mature plants can be separated like day lilies
- **Leaf Cuttings** – Soak leaves in water at least 1 hour before planting
 - Plant as you would an African Violet
 - Cut leaf in 3" portions, scrape main vein, dust with Rootone & pin to soil
 - Remove main vein, dust cut edges with Rootone & plant 1/8" to 1/4" in soil
- **Seed** – Sow seed on top of moist, fine, peat. Place in clear sealed container under bright light. Seed should sprout in 2 – 4 weeks.

Examples

Leaf Cuttings

Leaf Sections



Mid-rib Method



Examples

Root Division



Some DS Varieties



Facebook Pages

- **Strep By Strep**
- **Strepaholics**
- **Streptocarpus; tropical plants as houseplants**
- **Bloomin' Jungle African Violets and Streptocarpus**
- **African Violet and Gesneriad Swap**
- **African Violet and Streptocarpus Enthusiasts**

Helpful Links

- Streptocarpus-info.com
- Streps.simpl.com
(Streptocarpus for Beginners, The Sky's the Limit)
- Gloriousgesneriads.org.uk
- Bloominjungle.org
- Streptocarpus-dimetris.com
- Cubits.org/Strepbystrep (forum)
- Worldofstreps.com