

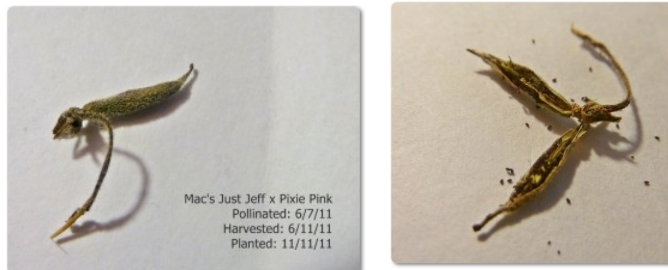
My First Steps in African Violet Hybridization

December 6, 2011 Nate African Violet

African violet seed pods are said to require a maturation time of three to six months, with those ripening prior to four months having low or non-existent germination rates. Word of mouth, though, I've heard that some people have had success with seed pods at around 2 months and given the very variable nature of violets it seems entirely possible that there would be outliers which produced their seed pods and seeds faster. The plant will let you know when it has matured as the seed pod and stem will begin to shrivel and dry, so there are no real needs for guessing games – they're ready when they're ready. For my particular pod this point was reached after exactly four months.



The first of the above pictures shows the seed pod not long after pollination – a few weeks or so, and the second shows them after around three months.



I dried this seed pod for ten days and it went from a mostly brown, still plump pod to completely dried and much harder. I simply left mine in a cool spot with a piece of cotton wool over it to both reduce moisture and stop the tiny pod from falling out of the cup! The seed pod, once ripe and dried, can be cut open with a sharp knife or blade. This is best done on top of a piece of white paper so that you can both see the seeds more easily and to act as a tool with which to sow the seeds.



The seeds themselves are tiny, slightly ovoid or round and a dark brown colour. They are so small that I feared breathing on them in case I sent them flying across the table. These seeds require a fine but

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loose medium in which to be sown, with fair humidity. They need to be surface sown as they require light to germinate.



A tiny seedling, 8 days after sowing. This little thing was around 1 mm in length – from tiny radicle (seed root) to baby leaves.

Source:

<http://afk.slashhug.net/2011/12/my-first-steps-in-african-violet-hybridization/>