

AFRICAN VIOLET TRAILERS

AVSA SCALE OF POINTS

Form (according to variety)	25 points
Condition (cultural perfection).	25 points
Quantity of bloom	25 points
Size and type of bloom	15 points
Color of bloom	10 points

CONSIDERATIONS FOR JUDGING TRAILERS

Form (according to variety): Trailers are judged on form rather than on symmetry. To be considered for a blue ribbon, a trailer must have at least three crowns growing from the central stem. If there are only two crowns, deduct 11 points; deduct 11 more points if there is only one.

Some trailers are semi-trailing and do not trail down around the pot. Their growth habits can be variable, from sideways to a more upright cluster form of growth. These patterns are considered good form for the semi-trailers.

Condition (cultural perfection): The size of the container should be in proportion to the size of the plant. Trailers are not restricted to size. Miniature and semiminiature trailers may be exhibited in the same size containers as standard trailers. There should be no evidence of yellow or spotted leaves, bare stems showing, or spent blooms. Size of the leaves should be consistent. Sometimes miniature and semiminiature trailers will develop larger leaves as they grow into large pots. This does not change the original classification of these plants. However, points would be deducted if one crown has larger leaves than the other crowns, or if there is a noticeable difference in the size of the leaves on the plant with some of the leaves being large and others small. Naturally, the center leaves in each crown will be a little smaller than the mature outside leaves.

Quantity of bloom: Most trailers are heavy bloomers, although some of the standard trailers do not have as many blooms per stem as the miniature or semiminiature trailers, or do not produce as many stems per plant. Therefore, most miniature and semiminiature trailers are more floriferous. The number of blooms depends on whether the variety has one or two blooms per stem, or many blooms per stem. The number of blooms should be in proportion to the size of the plant according to the variety. Blooms should be spaced evenly around the plant from all three main crowns. Deduct points if blooms are not distributed on all main crowns.

Size and type of bloom: Blooms are judged according to variety. Blooms are sometimes larger on standard trailers than on miniature or semiminiature trailers.

Color of bloom: The color of the bloom is judged according to the variety of the trailer.

SPECIAL NOTES ON TRAILERS

African violet trailers range in size from microminis (leaf size approximately a quarter by a half inch), miniatures (leaf size approximately one half inch by an inch), semiminiatures (leaf size approximately one inch by one and a half inches), to standards (leaf size one and a half to two inches).

Trailers require the same loose, porous soil and feeding schedules as other African violets.

For compact growth and heavy bloom African violet trailers need good light from the start. Some of the older cultivars need less light. To prevent yellowed leaves, the grower might move these varieties to the end of the light tubes or to window sills, where they may do better.

When plants are a few inches tall pinch out the two to four center leaves to encourage new growth. This is not necessary for some semitrailing African violets and most microminis which send out new growth in all directions on their own.

As each new extra crown grows to a few inches it in turn should have its center pinched out until the plant fills the pot. At this point, stop pinching and let the plant grow. Sometimes plants will shoot out a crown with larger or smaller leaves than the rest. Crowns with the odd-sized leaves should be removed.

Most varieties can be trained to trail around the pot. Shape and improve the appearance of plants by removing old or yellowed leaves and bare stems, pruning, and by temporary pinning.