2024 HJAVS Growing to Show Schedule

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| **Week** | **Date** | **Instructions** |
| 12 Weeks | January  12 | Remove old, damaged, excess leaves from your African violet. Repot; pot down if there are necks or pot up to next size if needed. Minis can be hard repotted now. Keep suckers removed. |
| 11 Weeks | January  19 | Keep most plants disbudded until week 8. Exceptions are trailers and some miniatures. Don’t let minis and trailers over bloom this early. If they are showing a lot of bud, partially disbud or you may lose the center. |
| 10 Weeks | January  26 | Continue to disbud most plants, keeping trailers and minis partially disbudded to keep crowns open to light. Apply bloom-booster. A bloom-booster is any fertilizer with a higher center number like a 5-57-17, or 3-12-6 fertilizer formula. Take plant off the reservoir and apply a drench of half-strength bloom-booster fertilizer. Return to reservoir containing regular fertilizer solution. |
| 9 Weeks | February  2 | Increase light time by one hour. Disbud heavily variegated varieties and double variegated varieties for the last time. For minis and trailers, start pinching off the open flowers. Continue to disbud all other varieties. Apply another drench of bloom-booster fertilizer. |
| 8 Weeks | February  9 | Increase light time by another hour. Disbud all doubles and lightly variegated varieties for the last time. Continue to disbud semi-doubles and singles, and pinch open blooms on minis and trailers. Check for suckers. Apply last drench of bloom-booster fertilizer. |
| 7 Weeks | February  16 | Increase light time by one hour*.* Disbud semi-doubles for the last time. If it is very warm, continue disbudding for another week or two. No bloom- booster fertilizer drench this time. For trailers and minis, take off all flower stems that start looking faded. |
| 6 Weeks | February  23 | Disbud singles for the last time. If it is very warm, delay disbudding singles for one week. Carefully remove suckers, especially on minis. Wash foliage. HJAVS has a video about washing foliage. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OCnS\_k79kSM |
| 5 Weeks | March  1 | Check plants for buds. Buds can be gently manipulated towards the center of the plant. Check for suckers and keep debris off foliage with soft brush. |
| 4 Weeks | March  8 | Check plants for buds, and pinch open blooms on all types of plants. Buds can be gently manipulated towards center of the plant. Check for suckers and keep debris off foliage with soft brush. |
| 3 Weeks | March  15 | Check plants for buds. Buds can be gently manipulated towards the center of the plant. Remove suckers and keep debris off foliage with soft brush. |
| 2 Weeks | March  22 | Remove spent blossoms, peduncles (stem emanating from an axil and supporting the entire flower cluster), and pedicel stubs (stem emanating from the peduncle and supporting the individual blossom). |
| 1 Week | March  29 | Remove spent blossoms, peduncles, and pedicel stubs. Check for suckers. Brush away soil particles, etc. Pot down necks or pot up only if necessary. |
| Day Before | April  5 | Again, remove spent blossoms, flower stems that look faded. etc. Prepare to remove training devices, such as picks or pins. Training rings can be left on for transport to show. Place plants in boxes so that the foliage is supported and plants do not shift. Make sure direct sun is blocked during transport. |

Schedule is adapted from **Growing to Show – “How to Grow Prize-Winning African Violets** by Pauline Bartholomew and AVSA.