



*Floral & Gift Ideas as Fresh as our Flowers!*

Hydrangea Bleu.com

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Welcome:

Most days I wear all the hats in my business: head bucket cleaner, primary flower processor, main designer, chief accountant. One of my favorite hats to wear is that of delivery person. There is nothing more gratifying for me than to be the messenger of delight or comfort with an unexpected delivery of beautiful blooms. And every now and then, that moment at the door becomes one that reminds me why I love what I do. This was the case Mother's Day weekend. An order took me to Laguna Woods late on Friday afternoon. The order was originally scheduled for the following day, but the woman was headed out of town on Saturday and asked if they could be delivered on Friday. She told me that when I arrived that I could just leave the flowers at the door inside the gate since it would take her a little while to get to the door. The house had a iron gate that led into a courtyard. Unfortunately the gate was locked. I rang the outside doorbell a few times and waited. She said it would take her a little time to get to the door, but I stood there about 5 minutes and still she did not appear. I was not comfortable leaving them outside the courtyard so I called her and told her that I was outside her gate with the flowers. She asked if I would wait a minute and she would let me in. A couple of minutes later she slowly emerged from the front door. I asked her if she would like me to carry the vase into the house for her and she asked if I would put them on the dining room table. She hugged me briefly in thanks and held onto my hands. She went on to tell me about how her brother had been a florist in Brentwood many years ago and how she loved flowers. She showed me the painting of flowers that he had painted that now hung on her wall and told me that she had moved from France many years ago. She had a charm and sincerity that made me wish I could chat with her longer. We chatted briefly about religion - she guessed mine and said "I thought so, me too." We talked about the statuary and the plants in her courtyard as I was leaving and she thanked me again for bringing in her flowers. I left thinking that this warm, charming woman probably spent most of her days by herself in her home and that left me a little sad. So often when I make deliveries the encounter is momentary. Every now and then I am reminded that I deliver more than just flowers.....

Best wishes, Anne



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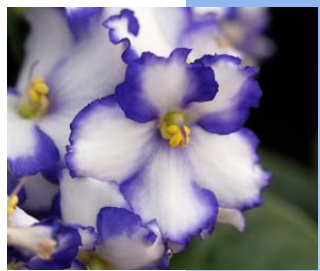
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Thanks!

## Flower of the Month: [African Violets](#)

True to their name, African Violets, really did originate in Africa.

True to their name, African Violets, really did originate in Africa. They made their way to America via Europe in the 1920's. "Blue Boy" was the first commercially available variety and in the 60's the hybridizers would succeed in producing varieties with star-shaped flowers, semi-doubled blooms, and frilly edges. Periodically I will see the frilly edged or bi-colored varieties at the flower market. My favorite are the green & white, but alas, their availability is sporadic. One of the charms of the African Violet is that it has the potential to flower most of the year. This however requires some diligence in care. Firstly, African Violets require bright light, but not direct sun, and in order to bloom they also need 8 hours of darkness. The light requirements have prompted some to provide artificial light in order to control the amount of light necessary to bloom. Too much light and leaves can develop brown edges or brown spots. Yellow leaves can indicate a lack of light. When watering, be sure to avoid soft water. Use room temperature water and let the water sit for 24 hours before using so that any chlorine present in the water has time to evaporate. Check the soil moisture before watering - the soil should be constantly moist. Uneven watering will affect the plant's ability to bloom. The best way to water an African Violet is to set it in a tray of water for approximately 1/2 hour and let it drink from the roots. If there is still water in the tray or saucer after this time, be sure to pour it out. African Violets need humidity and I've found that they perform well in the bathroom if the temperature and light requirements are also present. Much has been written about the African Violet and there are many books devoted to growing, caring, and enjoying African Violets. The African Violet Society of America has a lot of good information related to care on their website: [www.avsa.org](http://www.avsa.org). When using this charming plant as decor, they are lovely massed together in a larger decorative pot. Leave them in their individual pots and remove them for watering. They are also attractive when grouped with ferns and ivies for a cottage or Victorian look. And they can be paired with tropicals (orchids, anthurium, bromeliads, etc.) for a more contemporary setting.



*The flower are top to bottom, Butterflies & Violets, Cottage garden Violet, African Violet, WS Violet, Violets.*



**“Whispers From the Flower Fields”**



1. Never water from above.
2. Use room temperature water.
3. Place near a window with bright light, but not in direct sun.



**"There are always flowers for  
those who want to see them."  
*Henri Matisse***

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