

THE AFRICAN VIOLET PLANT AND ITS PARTS

The terms that refer to African violets, used in the AVSA HANDBOOK, are listed below. An illustration of a whole African violet and its separate parts is on the facing page.

African violet plants are made up of **blossoms** (flowers) and a rosette of **foliage** (leaves) attached to a **crown** (a single thick stem). The African violet **trailers** and some of the *Saintpaulia* **species** (the original wild African violets) have **multiple-crowns** (several stems coming from the same roots) and tend to trail or grow sideways.

Plants are **registered** as **large, standard, semiminiature, or miniature**, and trailers can be standard, semiminiature, or miniature. The plants themselves often grow larger or smaller than expected. A micromini is the affectionate name given to the very tiny African violets that are sometimes less than an inch across. Types of foliage and blossoms are shown on pages 14 and 15.

The numbers or letters used below refer to numbers or letters used in the drawings on the opposite page.

1. A blossom is a collection of plant parts that is responsible for seed production (sexual reproduction). The blossom is made up of **sepals (a), petals (b), stamens (c), ovary (d), style (e), and stigma (f)**. The **stamens**, tipped with **anthers (g)** which carry the **pollen (h)** shown speckled on the blossom, are considered the male part. The **pistil (i)**, which consists of the ovary, style and stigma and produces the seeds, is considered the female part.

2. A bud is an unopened or partly opened blossom. In an AVSA show it can not count as a blossom except in the New Cultivar classes.

3. A bloom stalk is a spray of blossoms on a stem that grows between the leaves.

4. A pedicel is the stem supporting an individual blossom or bud in a cluster.

5. A peduncle is the stem that supports the entire blossom cluster.

6. A petiole is the stem that connects the blade of the leaf to the crown.

7. A sucker is the beginning of a new crown. Some bloom stalks start out with small leaves but should show evidence of a bud by the time four leaves have formed. Suckers should be removed when very small on single-crown plants and encouraged on multiple-crown plants.

8. Seed pods are the result of the fertilization of eggs in an ovary with pollen from the same or different plant.