

In the Connecticut Greenhouse Newsletter No. 70, February 1976, the "Requirements for Common House Plants" noted "Do not wet leaves" of Saint-paulia. This is not entirely accurate. The following note from Diantha (Mrs. Albert H.) Buell, Buell's Greenhouses, Eastford, Connecticut, explains that:

### AFRICAN VIOLETS *DO LIKE* A WARM WATER BATH

African Violets are quite hirsute, a characteristic of nearly all the family of gesneriads of which they are members. It is very important to keep foliage and all hairs clean of dirt and dust so that light can get through the hairs to the green plants.

The easiest way to keep violets clean is to use a soft spray of warm water. The home grower can give this bath at the kitchen sink or use a bottle hand sprayer. The greenhouse grower can use a fine-spray nozzle on a garden hose.

There is one caution: Do not allow direct sunlight on wet foliage; the drops of water will act as little magnifiers in the sun and spots may be burned on the leaves. Thus, the home grower should let the plants dry in the sink or avoid washing in hot midday direct sun, and should shade them, wet or dry, on very bright days with a sheer dacron or fiberglass curtain.

The greenhouse grower should avoid watering the plants from 10:00 a. m. to 2 or 3:00 in the afternoon on a very bright day even in his shaded greenhouse advised for African Violets.