

## Growing African Violets from Seed

*The process is so simple that if it was any easier it would occur spontaneously.*

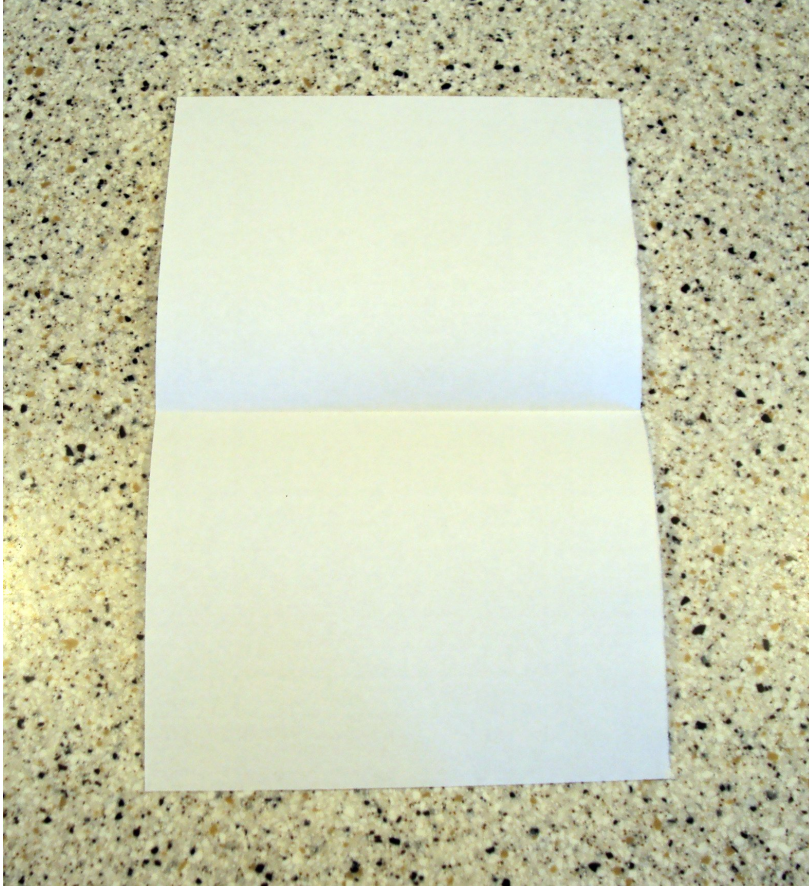
- 1) You need some good potting soil, a pot and water and a plastic sandwich bag. I hope you did not anticipate any further paraphernalia. The type of soil you use has more to do with personal preference. As long as it can retain moisture and is light it will work. My personal preference is Baccto Pro Mix Potting Soil. I have used many types with good outcomes.



- 2) Fill the pot with soil and then wet the soil thoroughly allowing the excess water to run out of the pot and drain. The soil must be thoroughly moistened yet well drained. In other words not muddy.



- 3) Take a sheet of white paper. Fold it in half and cut or tear it so you now have  $\frac{1}{2}$  the sheet. Fold it into half again.

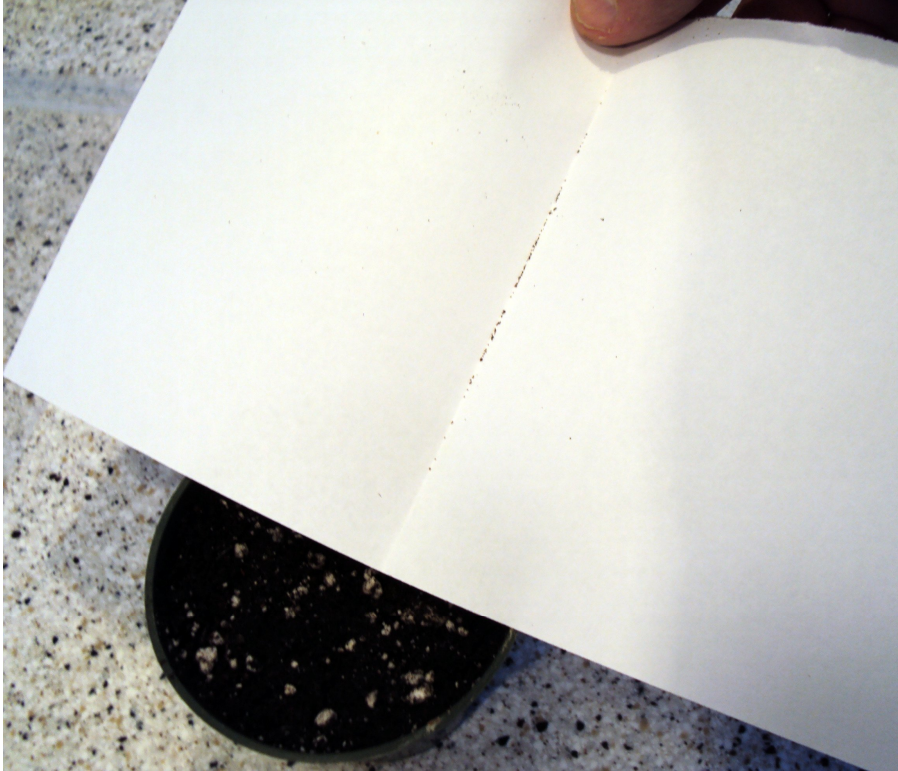


- 4) Place the seed that is to be sown into the crease of the fold of the  $\frac{1}{2}$  sheet. Tap the paper so all the seed falls into the crease.





- 5) Holding the edge of the  $\frac{1}{2}$  sheet with the seed, sprinkle the seed over the moist surface of the potting soil trying to get an even distribution.



- 6) Place the pot with the newly sown seed into a plastic bag. My preference is a zip seal plastic lunch bag which nicely handles the 2-3 inch pot that I usually use.



- 7) Seal the bag and make sure you write the appropriate demographic information like the parentage of the seed and the date sown.
- 8) Place the seed under a florescent light in the same fashion as if you had an African violet in the pot. In about 14 days you should see the seeds start to germinate, putting down roots and the cotyledons starting to emerge.

- 9) Here is an example of seedlings at 7 weeks after being sown, ready to be transplanted into individual containers. This was the result of a chimera African violet Van's Evan X Van's Evan. Since the seed parent had variegated leaves I expected the offspring to be variegated, and they are.

