

Repotting Revisited



The plant above, "Marching Band", has come from the grower, and is still in the original pot with a peat moss growing mixture.



Notice how far below the rim of the pot the plant is positioned. Because I will trim the plant down, I selected a smaller pot for the repotting.



A



B

The new pot should be clean and sterile (I soak my used pots in a Clorox/soap mixture to clean them). Next, I wet a wick and draw it through one of the holes on the bottom, in picture A to the left; I put a thin layer of perlite or sponge rock on the bottom of the pot. Next, I put in a layer of light soiless mix on top as in picture B on the left. Notice the white perlite in the soil which is used to lighten it more, making it more porous.

At this point, I put a label with the name of the plant and today's date on the new pot.



C

In picture C, I have removed the plant from its old pot. I remove the smaller leaves at the base, and any other leaves that spoil the symmetry of the plant. Any blossoms or buds are also removed to eliminate the possibility of thrips, and to put the energy of the reduced violet into



D

In picture D, excess soil has been removed so the basic root ball is exposed, with roots trailing from the bottom. I take more soil from the bottom so the roots will trail, and so the plant will fit into the smaller pot as in picture E.

The plant is centered in the pot before filling in the sides with the soilless mix, as in picture F.



F

The violet is planted a little deeper in the soil than usual, as the leaves were reaching up more than I wanted. In picture G, you see the leaves as they ideally grow, out to the sides in the plant on the left.

If the leaves do not begin to grow more to the side, I can put a paper plate on top of them to gently push them down. A plant is like a work of art that needs constant sculpting.



G



The final touch is to put a thin layer of a vermiculite/perlite mixture on the top of the soil. This helps the plant retain moisture, and gives a neater appearance.

The plant can now be put on a container of water, with the wick reaching the water through a hole in the top of the container.

