

## Growing Vireya in Oregon .. submitted by Donald Graham

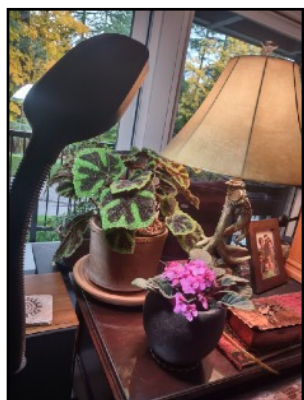


*From left to right ... Back left Easter Pastel...Back right Veronica Maureen....; Front left Heart of Pineapple....front middle Lucie Sorenson,...front right Avalon.*



The first 3 vireya Sherla sent me in May, 2020, were Lucie Sorensen , Heart of Pineapple and Veronica Maureen. Of those 3 the most vigorous grower is Veronica Maureen. The plant that has bloomed the most of all 5 is Lucie Sorensen. Heart of Pineapple is the most compact and grows really well, the new growth looks a little chlorotic but eventually fills out. Same with Lucie. I fertilize lightly every six months with Osmocote Plus and have given them a small amount of chelated iron once. After the iron, the foliage on all 5 is stunning. I water once every 7 days. That's when the top just starts to dry out. I repotted to slightly larger pots and used a mix of perlite, shredded redwood bark and a small amount of organic potting soil and leaving the original mix in place. Lighting is full spectrum sun average 6000K via LEDs on timers. I wanted to mimic the tropics 12 hr light. The 2 outer LED clusters come on first and the middle one comes on 1/2 hour later and goes out 1/2 hour after the others go out. Like sunrise and sunset. Pretty cool really. All automatic. When we had the 118 degree heat this summer (2021) I brought them in. The temp varies from 68-75 and the humidity is always between 50-60% ... Summer and winter. They are not going back out. The 2 plants that survived the 14 day UPS shipment last fall, Oct. 2020, were Easter Pastel and Avalon. Both were blooming in the box after being in delayed 2 weeks...and both have bloomed since. But Avalon, I think, got damaged as half of the plant is not growing. The other half is fine. I may prune the weaker side off and see what transpires. Easter Pastel it ASTOUNDING. It's bloomed twice and now every robust leaf whorl had a large flower bud. The foliage is the best of all of them and I believe it will be a monster. (cont. pg. 5)

I almost forgot to mention the lighting. The attached photos show the light stands as well as the lights. I have two of the three head LEDs and one of the four head LEDs. Each of the heads are 50 watt spread there's a total of 10 heads mounted on three light stands. The light stands I have I use for photography and they are industrial strength way more than what would be needed. But they function perfectly. The light stands are Manfrotto brand, they make stands that are far cheaper than what I'm using and would probably function just as well for the light duty that it would take. The LEDs are all natural sunlight full spectrum and they do not generate heat. Each of the three lights have a timer that can be set for four, 8 or 12 hours. The four head light is frequently sold out so I felt lucky to at least get one but the three headlights are constantly available. Each of the light fixtures has a 30,000 hour lifespan.



I have one tropical begonia and one African violet that I keep under a simple one element grow light and they are growing like crazy

This is the Easter Pastel. The last thing ... Every few weeks I have to spray some copper to keep powdery mildew off of them. I generally can wipe it off but keeping it off requires copper..

My best resource is White Smith. He is the best! When I have questions he always has great advice.

