

BREEDING VIOLETS

A reprint of an old article, a lecture by Henry George at our club in September 2006.

Cobalt violet is the only visual violet.

Other colours can carry the violet factor – eg. Violet sky and violet mauve

Colour is represented by two factors, light and dark.

- A light factor bird (sky blue or light green) is represented by two light factors (LL)
- A dark factor bird (cobalt or darkgreen) is represented by one light factor and one dark factor (LD or DL, no difference between these two)
- Birds commonly referred to as double dark factor (mauve in the blue series and olive in the green series) are represented by two dark factors (DD)

The violet factor (represented by “v” in the following examples) can be carried on either the light factor (Lv) or the dark factor (Dv).

Example 1

Cross a cobalt DL with a visual violet DvL (visual violet with the violet carried on the dark factor)

To see what offspring you can produce, look at the 4 possible combinations you can get from these.

Offspring can be	DDv	Violet mauve
	DL	Cobalt
	LDv	Violet cobalt = visual violet
	LL	Sky blue

Alternatively, if the violet factor is carried on the light factor in the same example

Cross a cobalt DL with a visual violet DLv (visual violet with the violet carried on the light factor)

Offspring can be	DD	Mauve
	DLv	Violet cobalt = visual violet
	LD	Cobalt
	LLv	Violet sky

Example 2

Cross a cobalt DL with a violet mauve DDv

Offspring can be	DD	Mauve
	DDv	Violet mauve
	LD	Cobalt
	LDv	Violet cobalt = visual violet

Example 3

Cross a violet mauve DDv with a sky LL

Offspring can be DL Cobalt
DvL Violet cobalt = visual violet

This is the best mating for producing violets in quantities.

Example 4

Cross a visual violet DvL or DLv with a sky LL

If the violet factor is carried on the dark factor

Offspring can be DvL Violet cobalt = visual violet
LL Sky

If the violet is carried on the light factor

Offspring can be DL Cobalt
LvL Violet sky

The offspring you produce can tell you where the violet gene is carried.

You can do similar calculations using green series birds to produce violet greens.

Example 5

Cross a violet dark green DvL or DLv with a light green LL

Offspring can be DvL Violet dark green
LL Light green

Or DL Dark green
LvL Violet light green

If one or both of the green birds is split blue, you could get some green birds and some blue birds.

In this example you could get

DvL Violet dark green and/or violet cobalt (visual violet)
LL Light green and/or sky blue

Or DL Dark green and/or cobalt
LvL Violet light green and/or violet sky

It is possible to get double factor violet where two violet factors are carried, one on the dark factor and one on the light factor.

Example 6

Cross a double factor violet DvLv with a cobalt DL.

Offspring can be DvD Violet mauve
DvL Violet cobalt = visual violet
LvD Violet cobalt = visual violet
LvL Violet sky

You can only find out if a bird is a double factor violet by test mating and watching the results – it doesn't appear to alter the intensity of the colour.

Other comments

Henry has not mated violet to violet as he is trying to maintain the size. There is a good chance that violet to violet would pull the size down.

Violet grey is a deeper grey, like a charcoal grey.

It is hard to tell the difference between a violet sky and a cobalt. Violet sky is shown in the same class a cobalt.

You can put violet into lutinos to intensify the colour but then in the future your lutinos may start producing albinos with a violet sheen.

Violet is a good colour for the yellow face variety as it hides the suffusion.