

Cultural recommendation

Petunia

Description
Name: Petunia cultivars
Family: Solanaceae
Series: Bonnie, Famous, Sky® family, SweetSunshine®, AlpeTunia®, Surfinia®
Product use
Use: Garden beds, containers, hanging baskets, combinations, balcony pots
Exposure: Full sun – half shaded



Technical recommendations

Potting and Spacing:

Series	Recommended pot size	Potting week	Spacing plants/m ²
Bonnie	T 10,5	3-10	30-36
Famous	T 10,5-T13	3-12	22-30
AlpeTunia®, Surfinia	T 12-T14+	3-12	12-22
SweetSunshine®	T 12-T14+	3-12	22-30
Sky Family®	T 12-T14+	3-12	12-22

Substrate: Use a well-drained, disease-free, soilless medium with a good structure and pH 5.5-6.0. Watch for iron deficiency yellowing of young leaves when pH > 6.0.

Fertilizer: Petunia required constant fertilization. Begin fertilization when roots become visible. Use a balanced fertilizer 1,7-1-1,7 or 2-1-2 via irrigation at 1-1,5 gr/l or two times per week with 2-3 gr/l. Supplemental feeding with additional iron will help to prevent iron deficiency

Temperature: Nights: 11 to 17°C (52 to 62°F) Day: 14 to 24°C (58 to 75°F) ADT 17-20°C (62°F-68°F). Cooler temperatures can be used to help control growth and tone the plants at the end of the crop. Higher than recommended temperatures will cause stretch, weak stems, soft plants and reduced flower size. Keep well ventilated greenhouses and humidity <80%

Water: Media should be allowed to moderately dry between irrigations to prevent diseases and promote stronger growth. However, avoid drying out and wilting

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Light: High light needed. Keep light intensities at 50 to 80 Klux. Low light levels promote stem stretch and reduced plant quality. All the varieties/series are facultative/quantitative long day plant. These plants initiate flowers under any daylength, but flower earlier with long days.

Pinching: Bonnie series is natural compact and free-branching variety and does not need to be pinched. For the other series a pinch can be done 2 weeks after potting especially useful for maxi formats and hanging baskets. Pinch slightly delay flowering by 12-15 days.

Growth Control: Using the “Cool morning pulse” to reduce the greenhouse temperature to 6-8°C for 2- 3 hours at dawn. This approach will help to reduces plant height and keep compact plants. Petunias are responsive to Daminozide (Dazide/Alar/B-nine), avoid using it on Sky types (NightSky, BabyDoll) within 5 weeks of desired finish date due to sensitivity of the color pattern to Daminozide. If PGR are required, Night Sky can be drenched with Paclobutrazol (Bonzi) to significantly slow vegetative growth while allowing flowering to continue. Providing cool temperatures, high light and keeping the media on the dry side, will help keep the plants more compact. These recommendations for plant growth regulators should be used only as general guidelines. Growers must trial all PGR under their conditions and follow the registration uses of each chemical in their region.

Pest and diseases:

Petunias are sensitive to various pest under greenhouse conditions. Whiteflies, aphids, thrips and spider mites are the most common pest of Petunia. Start with clean material a well disinfected facilities together with a proper pest management program using different control strategies: exclusion, monitoring, biological and chemical control, are the best tools to control these pests. Petunias are also sensitive to several diseases like, Rhizoctonia, Pythium, Oidium, Botrytis and several viruses. Disease management should be addressed by sanitation strategies, environmental conditions control, biological and chemical control.

For the chemical control, follow the registration uses of each product in each region

Crop schedule * 10,5 – 12 cm pot

Winter production:

Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
North	P										F	F
South	P								F	F		

P: Potting. Pi: Pinching. F: Finish plant

Spring Production

Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
North	P						F	F
South	P					F	F	

P: Potting. Pi: Pinching. F: Finish plant

* This is a reference time schedule that can vary depending on the variety, growing conditions and region. Schedule start from RC

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Crop schedule * 13-14 cm pot

Winter production:

Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
North	P	Pi										F	F	Pi(F)
South	P								F	F				

P: Potting. Pi: Pinching. F: Finish plant

Spring Production

Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
North	P							F	F
South	P						F	F	

P: Potting. Pi: Pinching. F: Finish plant

* This is a reference time schedule that can vary depending on the variety, growing conditions and region. Schedule start from RC

NOTE: Growers should use the information presented here as guidelines only. Selecta One recommends that growers conduct a trial of products under their own conditions. Crop times will vary depending on the climate, location, time of year, and greenhouse environmental conditions. It is the responsibility of the grower to read and follow all the current label directions relating to the products. Nothing herein shall be deemed a warranty or guaranty by Selecta One of any products listed herein