

# Petunia

## Petunia Express™ (Grandiflora) and Frenzy™ (Multiflora)

*For Spreading/Trailing Petunia Wave®, please see Culture Focus Sheet P8*

<b>Plant type:</b>	Tender annual
<b>Uses:</b>	Baskets, patio pots, containers and bedding plants
<b>Sowing:</b>	24°C. Sow thinly. Do not cover with Vermiculite. Germination 1 - 2 weeks. The use of a pre-sowing fungicide would be recommended. Light benefits germination.

### Approximate crop timing (mid-season)

Sowing to transplanting	2 – 3 weeks
Sowing to flowering	10 – 12 weeks (allow 2 weeks extra for double varieties)
Seedlings to flowering	7 weeks
Ball 350 to flowering	5 weeks
Ball 230 to flowering	4 weeks

### Growing on:

Temperature	Initially 15°C until transplanted seedlings or plugs have established. The plants should then be protected from frost but temperature lowered to < 10°C to produce a well branched vegetative plant. To promote flowers warmer temperatures, > 12°C at compost level is needed.
pH	5.5 - 6.0. Higher pH will cause chlorosis as iron is unavailable.
Feeding	Balanced NPK fertiliser at approximately 10 day intervals. High ammonium nitrogen can cause soft leggy growth.
Growth regulation	Growth regulation may be necessary after the plants have established. The plants respond to Daminozide. Several applications may be necessary, stopping before flower buds develop.
Pack/Pot size	Pack or 9cm – 10.5cm upto 1 litre pots for Summer boosters.
Planting out spacing	20 – 25cm
Advice	Grow cool and dry, allowing plants to dry between watering. Do not allow plants to be wet overnight. Provide good ventilation. Plants require good light over 14 hours per day to flower.
Common diseases	Good hygiene is essential. Pythium, Phytophthora - damping off. Botrytis and Powdery Mildew can also be a problem.

Ball Colegrave cultural information is issued as a guide to growers, based on our own trials experience. It is not intended as a blueprint for growing. Any chemicals referred to should be used only in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

## *Culture Information*

### **Petunia F1 Picobella™ (Milliflora type)**

<b>Plant type:</b>	Tender annual
<b>Uses:</b>	Baskets, patio pots, containers and bedding plants
<b>Sowing:</b>	22-24°C. Sow thinly. Do not cover with Vermiculite. Germination 1 - 2 weeks. Light benefits germination. The use of a pre-sowing fungicide would be recommended.

#### **Approximate crop timing (mid season)**

Sowing to transplanting	2 – 3 weeks
Sowing to flowering	8 – 9 weeks
Ball 350 to flowering	5 weeks
Ball 230 to flowering	4 weeks

#### **Growing on:**

Temperature	12 – 16°C
pH	6.0
Feeding	A balanced feeding programme throughout the plants' development is needed, increasing to a 1:1:3 high potash feed about 2 weeks prior to sales to encourage flowering.
Growth regulation	Should not be necessary. The plant is naturally compact.
Pack/Pot size	Pack or 9-10.5cm pot
Planting out spacing	20 cm
Advice	Transplant directly into the finished pack or pot. Plants need to be kept actively growing, NOT stressed as may benefit other types of Petunia. A good balance of air and water is needed in the compost for good root development. Liberally water the plants and then allow the compost to dry back but NOT to the point of plant wilting before the next watering. Water early in the day so that water does not sit on the plants overnight. The plants require good light conditions and are long day plants needing over 12 hours light a day to initiate flower buds.
Common diseases	Pythium, Phytophthora - seedling damping off in poor hygiene germination conditions. Botrytis and Powdery Mildew can also be a problem.
Common pests	Aphids

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## *Culture Information*

### **Fanfare™ (Cutting-raised Petunia)**

**Plant type:** Perennial treated as annual  
**Uses:** Baskets, patio pots, containers and bedding plants

#### **Approximate crop timing (mid season)**

Ball 84 to flowering 4 – 6 weeks

#### **Growing on:**

**Temperature** Once established plants require a growing regime minimum of 10°C with an optimum growing temperature of 14 - 16°C.  
Growing cool and dry does produce a more compact, branched plant habit.  
Hardy to 4°C, allows early season sales opportunities to be possible with careful “weaning” of crops by temperature control.

**pH** 5.5-6.2

**Feeding** Use a regular balanced feeding programme.

**Pinching** Pinching is required to produce a good branched habit.  
Our Ball 84 is generally not pinched.

**Growth regulation** Plants respond to Daminozide if further growth regulation is required, however Fanfare Petunia is naturally compact and therefore usually does not necessitate a treatment.  
Growth regulators can also reduce flower size.

**Pack/Pot size** 9 – 13cm pot

**Advice** Grow cool and dry, allowing plants to dry between watering will reduce the need for growth regulators.  
Do not allow plants to be wet overnight.  
High light levels are needed for flower production.  
Good hygiene is essential throughout production.  
The compact, yet branched habit of Fanfare™ means plants can be grown at high bench densities without tangling, unlike Surfinia® type Petunias.

**Common diseases** Pythium, Phytophthora, Powdery Mildew and Botrytis.

**Common pests** Aphids

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