

**Family:** Solanaceae  
**Used:** Outdoor containers, pot and pack, suitable for borders and beds.  
**Plant type:** Annual  
**Height in pot:** 10-15 cm (4-6 in.)  
**Garden height:** 15-20 cm (5-8 in.)

**Seed count:** 8,000-11,000 seeds/gram (255,000-300,000 seeds/oz)  
 Seed count varies by variety and seed lot  
**Seed form:** Raw and pelleted.

**Germination:**

pH 5.9 to 6.2  
 Media EC 0.5-0.75

**Stage 1: radicle emergence**

Radicle emergence will occur in 3-4 days.  
 Moisture: keep media wet but not completely saturated to prevent lack of oxygen.  
 Covering is not necessary. Light: Petunia will germinate better in light versus in the dark.  
 Temperature: 22-25°C (72-77°F)

**Stage 2: expanding stem and cotyledons**

Moisture: keep media moist but not wet to allow roots to penetrate.  
 EC. 1.0-1.25  
 Temperature: 18-20°C (65-68°F)  
 To induce early flowering a day of at least 14 hrs at 3500 lux (350 foot candles) is needed.

**Stage 3: development of first true leaves**

Moisture: reduce moisture levels for compact sturdy growth. Allow media to dry in between watering.  
 Temperature: 18-20°C (65-68°F) To reduce stretching do not use ammonium-based fertilizers but replace with calcium-based fertilizers.  
 EC. 1.25-1.75  
 Supplemental lighting up to an 16-18 days will induce early flowering.

**Stage 4: finishing/holding stage**

Moisture: Keep media relatively dry to prevent stretching.  
 Temperature: 15-18°C (60-65°F) Temperatures below 15°C (60°F) will delay flower initiation.  
 Fertilizing and EC: see stage

**Growing on:**

Low boron levels may cause tip abortion and blindness. Use of calcium-based fertilizers will prevent calcium deficiency  
 pH: keep pH above 5.7 and below 6.4 to prevent iron deficiency.  
 Moisture: Allow media to dry and plants slightly to wilt between watering. Best result with growth regulators is after application of watering when foliage is dry.  
 Light: Most Petunias need long days (> 14 hrs ) to promote early flowering. In low light areas supplemental lighting of 4,000-6,500 lux (400-650 foot candles) is advisable.

**Growth regulators:**

Petunia Limbo is naturally dwarf and does not need growth regulators to provide a salable plant. However, PGRs can be applied to provide extra compact plants. The plants responds to Daminozide (Dazide, B-Nine 85) at 2-3 g/litre. Stop before flower buds develop.

**Pests:**

Aphids  
 Control: common insecticides can be used, check for labelled products.

**Diseases:**

Pythium, Phytophthora - Damping off. Good hygiene is essential. Botrytis and Powdery mildew can also be a problem. Good hygiene is essential.

**Scheduling:**

Sowing	Potting	Flowering
wk 6	wk 10	wk 17
wk 10	wk 14	wk 19/20

