

PETUNIA grandiflora LIMBO

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:

<i>Sowing</i>	<i>Potting</i>	<i>Flowering</i>
wk 6	wk 10	wk 17
wk 10	wk 14	wk 19/20

Hem Genetics cultural information is issued as a guide to growers based on our own trials experience under Northern European conditions.

It is not intended as a blue print for growing. Any chemicals referred to should be used only in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Ref. : 14 May 2013

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