

# GrowerFacts

## Spreading Petunia Easy Wave Velour™

(Petunia X hybrida)

### Germination

**Note:** Because their spreading habit begins after transplanting, Easy Wave Velour plugs can be produced like other petunia plugs.

#### Media

Use a well-drained, disease-free seedling medium with a pH of 5.5 to 6.0 and EC about 0.75 mS/cm (1:2 extraction).

#### Sowing

Covering Easy Wave seed is not recommended. Water adequately after sowing to completely dissolve the pellet.

**Stage 1 – Germination takes approximately 4 days.**

**Soil temperature:** 72 to 76°F (22 to 24°C)

**Light:** Lighting is optional.

**Moisture:** Keep soil very wet (level 5) during Stage 1 for optimal germination.

**Humidity:** Maintain 100% relative humidity (RH) until radicles emerge.

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#### Stage 2

**Soil temperature:** 68 to 75°F (20 to 24°C)

**Light:** Up to 2,500 f.c. (26,900 Lux)

**Moisture:** Start to slightly reduce soil moisture (level 4) to allow root to penetrate into the media.

**Fertilizer:** Apply fertilizer at rate 1 (less than 100 ppm N/less than 0.7 mS/cm EC) from nitrate-form fertilizers with low phosphorous.

#### Stage 3

**Soil temperature:** 65 to 70°F (18 to 21°C)

**Light:** Up to 2,500 f.c. (26,900 Lux)

**Moisture:** Allow media to further dry until the surface

becomes light brown (level 2) before watering. Keep the moisture to wet-dry cycle (moisture level 4 to 2).

**Fertilizer:** Increase fertilizer to rate 2 (100 to 175 ppm N/0.7 to 1.2 mS/cm EC). If growth is slow, apply a balanced ammonium and nitrate-form fertilizer with every other fertilization. Maintain medium pH 5.8 to 6.2 and EC between 1.0 and 1.5 mS/cm (1:2 extraction).

**Growth Regulators:** Control plug growth first by environment, nutrition and irrigation management, then with chemical plant growth regulators if needed.

Minimize ammonium-form nitrogen fertilizer to avoid seedling elongation. Temperature differential (DIF) can also be used to minimize height. Test all chemical plant regulators first.

**In North American conditions:** Apply B-Nine/Alar (daminozide) 1 to 2 applications at 5,000 ppm (6.0 g/l, 85% formulation or 7.8 g/l, 64% formulation) as a spray. The first application should be made when plugs have 2 to 3 true leaves. A second application can be made 7 days later. This treatment can improve basal branching of mature plants.

#### Stage 4

**Soil temperature:** 60 to 65°F (16 to 18°C)

**Light:** Up to 5,000 f.c. (53,800 Lux) if temperature can be controlled.

**Moisture:** Same as Stage 3.

**Fertilizer:** Same as Stage 3.

### Growing On to Finish

#### Container Size

**1801 flats & Wave-Pink Packs:** 1 plant per cell

**4-in. (10-cm) pots:** 1 plant per pot

**6-in. (15-cm) pots:** 1 to 3 plants per pot

**10-in. (25-cm) baskets:** 3 to 4 plants per basket

#### Media

Use a well-drained, disease-free, soilless medium with a pH of 5.5 to 6.2 and a medium initial nutrient charge.

#### Temperature

**Nights:** 57 to 65°F (14 to 18°C)

**Days:** 61 to 75°F (16 to 24°C)

Easy Wave Velour petunias can tolerate temperatures as low as 35°F (2°C); however, keep in mind that crop timing (time to flower) is related to daily average temperature when grown under proper daylength. Easy Wave Velour plants will take longer to flower when grown in cooler conditions.

#### Light

Keep light levels as high as possible while maintaining moderate temperatures.

#### Fertilizer

Easy Wave Velour petunias require more fertilizer than is usually recommended for petunias. For best results, apply nitrate-form with low phosphorus fertilizer at rate 4 (225 to 300 ppm N (1.5 to 2.0 mS/cm EC) every other irrigation. Apply a balanced ammonium and nitrate-form fertilizer with low phosphorus as need to encourage growth and balance medium pH. Maintain medium pH 5.8 to 6.2.

For constant fertilizer program, can apply fertilizer at



rate 3 (175 to 225 ppm N or 1.2 to 1.5 mS/cm EC) while maintaining the above recommended EC and pH ranges.

### Growth Regulators

**In North American conditions:** Use B-Nine/Alar (daminozide) at 5,000 ppm (5.9 g/l, 85% formulation or 7.8 g/l, 64% formulation) at 7 days after transplant. Follow these with a Bonzi drench at 3 to 5 ppm (0.8 to 1.3 ml/l, 0.4% formulation) depending on environmental conditions. If additional PGR is needed, a Bonzi (paclobutrazol) spray at 30 ppm (7.5 ml/l, 0.4% formulation) will help hold the finished crop.

### In all conditions:

For hanging basket production, Plum Vein will benefit from one additional Bonzi 30 ppm spray.

**Note:** Topflor can be used in place of Bonzi at 2/3 the rate of Bonzi.

To determine the best rate for your conditions, we recommend that you conduct an in-house trial.

### Photoperiod

Wave petunia lighting requirements vary by location, variety and production week.

Easy Wave Velour petunias are less sensitive to daylength than Wave petunias. Most varieties will flower successfully at 10.5 hours. The crop time for Easy Wave Velour varieties will be shorter with longer days, such as 12 hours.

When producing Easy Wave Velour petunias early in the year when days are short, decrease crop times by using supplemental lighting after transplanting. Day extension or night break lighting are acceptable.

### Crop Scheduling

**Sow to transplant (400 to 288-cell plug):** 4 to 6 weeks

**Transplant to flower:** 5 to 7 weeks

### Total Crop Time:

Container size	Number of plants	Spring	Summer
1801	1 plant	10-12 weeks	8-10 weeks
10 cm	1 plant	10-12 weeks	8-10 weeks
15 cm	2-3 plants	10-12 weeks	8-10 weeks
Basket 25 cm	3-4 plants	10-13 weeks	8-11 weeks

### Common Problems

No major problems will occur if good cultural and IPM practices are used.

## Green Thumb Tips

Choose a full sun location for Easy Wave Velour petunias – at least 6 hours of direct sunlight is best. For best results, feed with an all-purpose fertilizer every 7 to 10 days, especially when grown in containers. Apply fertilizer at the recommended package rates.

Space 12 in. (30 cm) apart in the garden. Plants will spread 2.5 to 3 ft. (75 to 90 cm) and grow 8 to 12 in. (20 to 30 cm) tall.

**Note:** Growers should use the information presented here as a starting point. Crop times will vary depending on the climate, location, time of year and greenhouse environmental conditions. Chemical and PGR recommendations are only guidelines. It is the responsibility of the applicator to read and follow all the current label directions for the specific chemical being used in accordance with all regulations.

Ref. : 7 May 2013

<http://www.panamseed.com/advancedsearch.aspx?srch>

