



# Petunia Spreading FotoFinish™ Culture Guide

*F1 Petunia pendula*

**Product form:** Seed

**Containers:** Large Packs, Quarts, Gallons, Hanging Baskets

**Habit:** Trailing/Spreading

## Garden Specifications

**Garden Height:** 10–14" (25–35 cm) tall

**Garden Width:** 24–30" (60–75 cm) wide

**Exposure:** Full Sun

**USDA zone:** 8

**AHS zone:** 12–1

**Product use:** Containers, Hanging Baskets, Landscapes, Patio Pots, Combos

## Germination

**Stages 1 & 2**

**Germination time:** 3–5 days

**Media temp:** 72–76 °F (22–24 °C)

**Chamber:** Optional

**Light:** Required for germination

**Seed cover:** No

**Moisture level: 5 - SATURATED:** Soil is dark brown and shiny, free water is present at the surface of the soil, water drips freely from the bottom of the tray, and trays are heavy with a visible bend in the middle.

**Rec. tray size:** 288-cell tray

**Seeds per cell:** 1

## Young Plant Production

**Stage 3 & 4**

**Temperature**

**Day:** 66–68 °F (19–20 °C)

**Night:** 66–68 °F (19–20 °C)

**Average daily temperature:** 66–68 °F (19–20 °C)

**Lighting**

**Day extension lighting:** Beneficial to 14 hours

**Light intensity:** 2,000–3,000 foot candles (400–600 micro mols)

**Day length response:** Facultative Long Day

**Day light integral:** 10–12 mols/day

**Media pH:** 5.5–5.9

**Media EC:** SME EC: 0.9–1.3 mS/cm

**Fertilizer:** 75–125 ppm N

**Moisture level:** Media should be allowed to dry between irrigations. Alternate between moisture level 2 and 4.

**2 - MEDIUM:** Soil is light brown in color, no water can be extracted from soil, and soil will crumble apart.

**4 - WET:** Soil is dark brown but not shiny, no free water is seen at the surface of the soil, when pressed or squeezed water drips easily, and trays are heavy with a visible bend in the middle.

**Pinching:** No

**Plant growth regulators (PGRs):** Petunias are responsive to B-Nine® WSG sprays at 1,500–2,500 ppm.

FotoFinish™ Blue

**Plug grow time:** 4–5 weeks in a 288-cell tray

**Comments:** Covering seed is not necessary, but a light vermiculite coating will help maintain moisture levels in drier climates. Keep pelleted seed at moisture level 5 the first several days to help dissolve the pellet. Providing long days in the plug stage will reduce overall time to flower. Low boron levels can induce tip abortion. Spraying an uneven plug tray with B-Nine® WSG at 1,500 ppm may help even the growth in the tray.

## Finishing

### Temperature

**Day:** 68–70 °F (20–21 °C)

**Night:** 58–60 °F (14–16 °C)

**Average daily temperature:** 64 °F (18 °C)

### Lighting

**Day extension lighting:** Beneficial to 14 hours

**Light intensity:** 4,000–6,000 foot candles

**Day length response:** Facultative Long Day

**Day light integral:** 14–16 mol/day

**Transplanting:** Transplant directly into the finished container. Place the rooting media slightly below the level of media in the container. Make sure the root ball is covered and that the plug is situated in the center of the pot.

**Media pH:** 5.5–5.9

**Media EC:** SME EC: 1.5–2.1 mS/cm, PourThru EC: 2.3–3.2 mS/cm

**Fertilizer:** 125–175 ppm N

**Pinching:** No. Pinching is not recommended or needed.

**Plant growth regulators (PGRs):** It is best to be proactive in applying plant growth regulators on Petunias. Anticipate changes in weather or other conditions that can cause plant stretch and apply PGRs before plant stretch begins. Petunias respond well to B-Nine® WSG sprays at 2,500–3,500 ppm. Do not apply B-Nine® WSG after bud formation or flowers may reduce in size and/or become distorted. Bonzi® drenches at 1–2 ppm during later stages in the crop will reduce stretch and will not affect flowering as much as B-Nine® WSG.

**Tech tip:** Providing cool temperatures, high light, and 'growing on the dry side' will help keep Petunias more compact. Early morning DIF treatments also help. Providing long day lighting during short days will shorten time to flower.



Try Chrysal Alesco®, a postharvest foliar spray, to protect ethylene sensitive crops during shipping and retail.

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**Common pests:** Thrips, Aphids

**Common diseases:** Botrytis, Rhizoctonia

## Scheduling

SIZE	CROP TIME	PLANTS PER POT
Large Packs	4–5 weeks	1 ppp
1.0 quart (4.5 to 5 inch)	4–5 weeks	1 ppp
1.25 to 2.5 quart (5.5 to 6.5 inch, trade gallon)	5–6 weeks	1–2 ppp
3.0 quart to 2.0 gallon (8 to 12 inch)	6–8 weeks	1–3 ppp
1.5 gallon hanging basket (10 inch basket)	7–8 weeks	3–4 ppp
2.0 gallon hanging basket (12 inch basket)	7–8 weeks	4–5 ppp

Estimated finish crop time is from transplant of a 288-cell tray and finished at an average daily temperature (ADT) of 64 °F (18 °C).

## Example crop schedule for a 1.5 gallon hanging basket

WEEKS FROM TRANSPLANT	DESCRIPTION
2 weeks	Apply plant growth regulator (PGR) if needed
4 weeks	Apply PGR if needed
6 weeks	Apply PGR if needed
8 weeks	Ready to ship



FotoFinish™ Pink

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