



Petunia Wave Medleys®

Plug Production

Note: Because their spreading habit begins after transplanting, Easy Wave and Shock Wave 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. Burgundy Star, Pink and Plum Vein benefit from light during germination.

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

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

Stage 2

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

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

Moisture: 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. Maintain wet-dry moisture cycles (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 growth 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 can improve basal branching of the mature plant.

In Northern European conditions: 1 to 3 applications of B-Nine/Alar (daminozide) at 1,250 ppm (1.5 g/l, 85% formulation or 2.0 g/l, 64% formulation) spray have been effective.

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

Transplanting “Dibble 2 Method”

A single dibble-hole should be made in the center of the pot. One plug of each desired variety should be transplanted in the same dibble-hole so the two, or three, plants grow together.

Container Size

6-in. (15-cm) pots: 1 plant of each variety per pot (2 plants, not recommended for the 3 variety Medleys)

8-in. (20-cm) pots: 1 plant of each variety per pot (2 or 3 plants)

10-in. (25-cm) baskets: 1 or 2 plant of each variety per pot (2 to 4 plants)

Media

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

Temperature

Nights: 57 to 65°F (14 to 18°C)

Days: 61 to 75°F (16 to 24°C)

Easy Wave and Shock Wave petunias can tolerate temperatures as low as 35°F (2°C); however, crop timing (time to flower) is related to daily average temperature

when grown under proper day-length. Plants will take longer to flower when grown at cooler temperatures.

Light

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

Fertilizer

Easy Wave and Shock Wave 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 needed 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

Apply a Bonzi spray of 10 ppm 7 days after transplant. Repeat Bonzi spray 7 days later and 1 to 2 weeks later use a Bonzi drench of 2-4 ppm to control further stretch. 10 and 12-in hanging baskets may need an additional Bonzi drench at 2-4 ppm to hold for finishing.

Note: Topflor can be used in place of Bonzi at approximately 2/3 the rate of Bonzi. To determine the best rate for your conditions, conducting in-house trials is highly recommended.

Crop Time from Plug Transplant to Sale:

Container Size	Number of Plants	Summer
6-in. pot	2	4 to 5 weeks
8-in. pot	2 or 3	4 to 5 weeks
10-in basket	2 to 4	6 to 7 weeks
12-in basket	2 to 4	6 to 7 weeks

Common Problems

Iron chelate may be applied to avoid iron deficiency in petunias. No major problems will occur if good cultural and IPM practices are used.

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.

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