

Petunia Vegetative Mini Me™

(*Petunia x hybrida*)

Propagation

Scheduling

Allow 4 to 5 weeks for propagation in a standard 105 tray.

Rooting

Avoid applying too much mist in propagation as excess water slows rooting. For the best results, use a rooting hormone with up to 2,500 ppm of IBA. Mixtures that also include up to 500 ppm of NAA work well. Bottom heat enhances root development. Maintain soil temperatures between 68 to 72°F (20 to 22°C). Growth regulators are not necessary.

Growing On to Finish

Forcing to Flower

Potting

Plant 1 rooted cutting per 4 or 5-in. (10 or 13-cm) pot. For 6.5-in. (16-cm) hanging baskets, plant 2 to 3 cuttings per basket for fast cropping.

Media

Select a sterile, well-aerated mix. The optimum pH range is between 5.5 and 6.0. Consider that the water-holding capacity that is best for consumer performance may be greater than what is ideal for production.

Irrigation/Fertilizer

Avoid excessive irrigation when the plants are young. Feed with a complete, balanced fertilizer at 250 to 350 ppm Nitrogen (CLF). An EC level of 1.8 to 2.4 (2:1 slurry) is a good target range under most conditions. Provide a complete minor element program. Extra iron applications may be required to promote good leaf color. Apply iron sulfate drenches (avoiding contact with the foliage), or iron chelate sprays or drenches. The use of Osmocote or other appropriate slow-release fertilizer products may be beneficial in supplementing a CLF program and may provide improved performance for the consumer. Provide periodic clear water applications if excess soluble salts accumulate.

Temperature/Humidity

Establish the crop at an average temperature of 60°F (15°C). Once established, grow at 60 to 68°F (15 to 20°C) during the day and at 61°F (16°C) at night. For fast cropping, establish and grow at an average daily temperature of 68°F (20°C). Low night temperatures encourage flowering. Mini-Me™ Petunia responds well to DIF

regimes. Provide good air circulation at all times. Maintain relative humidity below 70% to prevent diseases like Botrytis gray mold.

Light

Bright light is ideal for this crop. Provide a minimum of 5,000 to 6,000 f.c. (53,800 to 64,600) Lux. Mini-Me™ Petunia is less sensitive to day length. The use of supplemental light (14 to 16 hours, beginning at midnight) is beneficial for early Spring flowering.

Pinching

Pinch out the growing tip 1 to 2 weeks after transplanting. For fast cropping, no pinch is required. Light pruning to shape the plants or correct for stretch can be done at any time but will delay flowering by 3 to 5 weeks.

Plant Growth Regulators

Mini-Me™ Petunia may not require the use of PGRs, although they are responsive to B-Nine or Bonzi. Low light, warm temperatures and positive DIF cause stretching. Use high light, cool temperatures and a slight negative DIF for optimum growth control. Avoid spraying when flower buds appear. The use of PGRs can delay flowering by 1 to 2 weeks.

Insects: Aphids, caterpillars, fungus gnats, leafminers, thrips and whitefly.

Disease: Botrytis (gray mold), powdery mildew, root and stem rots, viruses.

Troubleshooting

- Yellowing of young foliage: May be due to a malfunctioning fertilizer injector, high pH (greater than 6.4) or low media iron levels.
- Yellowing of lower foliage: May be due to a malfunctioning injector resulting in low nitrogen levels in soil or tissue, high salts, low magnesium levels, (supplement with magnesium sulfate), or root and stem rot.

Delayed flowering:

If growing during the short-day conditions of early Spring, extend the daylength with supplemental light to provide 14 to 16 hours of light. Late applications of plant growth regulators can cause flower delay, so avoid treating the plants once the flower buds are visible.

Crop Scheduling

Mini-Me™ Petunia flowers based on a combination of light level, photoperiod and temperature. Refer to the charts below for details.

Crop Scheduling – Fast Crop/No Pinch

Season: Spring

Container size: 4 to 5 in. (10 to 12.5 cm)

Rooted cuttings per pot: 1

Total crop time: 5-7 weeks

Season: Spring

Container size: 6.5 in. (16 cm)

Rooted cuttings per pot: 2-3

Total crop time: 7-9 weeks

Season: Spring

Container size: Hanging Basket

Rooted cuttings per pot: 3-5

Total crop time: 8-10 weeks

Crop Scheduling – Regular

Season: Early Spring

Container size: 4 to 5 in. (10 to 12.5 cm)

Rooted cuttings per pot: 1

Weeks to establish: 1-2

Weeks after pinch: 6-9

Total crop time: 7-11 weeks

Season: Early Spring

Container size: 6.5 in. (16 cm)

Rooted cuttings per pot: 2-3

Weeks to establish: 1-2

Weeks after pinch: 8-11

Total crop time: 9-13 weeks

Season: Early Spring

Container size: Hanging Baskets

Rooted cuttings per pot: 3-5

Weeks to establish: 1-2

Weeks after pinch: 8-11

Total crop time: 9-13 weeks

Season: Spring

Container size: 4 to 5 in. (10 to 12.5 cm)

Rooted cuttings per pot: 1

Weeks to establish: 1-2

Weeks after pinch: 5-7

Total crop time: 6-9 weeks

Season: Spring

Container size: 6.5 in. (16 cm)

Rooted cuttings per pot: 2-3

Weeks to establish: 1-2

Weeks after pinch: 6-8

Total crop time: 7-10 weeks

Season: Spring

Container size: Hanging Baskets

Rooted cuttings per pot: 3-5

Weeks to establish: 1-2

Weeks after pinch: 6-8



Total crop time: 7-10 weeks



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