GrowerFacts

Petchoa Supercal™

(*Petunia x Calibrachoa hybrid*)

A Ball FloraPlant Product

Propagation

Scheduling

Allow 4 to 5 weeks for propagation.

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). B-Nine growth regulator applications may be applied to prevent stretch.

Growing On to Finish

Potting

Plant 1 rooted cutting per 4 or 6-in. (10 or 15-cm) pot. For 10 to 12-in. (25 to 30-cm) hanging baskets, plant 4 cuttings per basket.

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 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. 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 to prevent soluble salts accumulation.

Temperature/Humidity

Establish the crop at an average temperature of 60°F (15°C). Once established, grow at 60 to 70°F (15 to 21°C) during the day and at 60°F (15°C) at night. For fast ropping, establish and grow at an average daily temperature of 68°F (20°C). The lower night temperatures encourage flowering. SuperCal™ Petunia responds well to DIF regimes for height control. Provide good air circulation at all times. Air movement and maintaining lower humidity will help 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. The use of supplemental light (14 to 16 hours, beginning at midnight or 4-hour night interuption) is beneficial for early Spring flowering.

Pinching

Pinch out the growing tip 1 to 2 weeks after planting. 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

SuperCal™ Petunia may not require the use of PGRs, although they are responsive to BNine, are best applied after pinch during early stages of lateral development. 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. Do not use Florel 6 to 8 weeks before desired flowering date.

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, high salts, or root and stem rot. For low calcium or magnesium levels, fertilize with a Cal-Mag formulation like 15-5-15.

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 or night nteruption. Late applications of plant growth regulators can cause flower delay, so avoid treating the plants once the flower buds are visible.