

Petunia Extravaganza

If you're looking for a colorful, easy-to-grow annual for a sunny spot, there isn't anything better than a petunia. These well-loved flowers are heat tolerant, low-maintenance, and come in a wide variety of colors and sizes. With a few easy steps you can grow perfect petunias all summer long.

Growing Conditions

Petunias love sun; they need at least 5-6 hours of sun per day and will produce fewer flowers in shady areas. They like well-drained soil and should be fertilized regularly. A time release fertilizer can be used in containers and in the garden at the time of planting. If using liquid fertilizer, apply every three weeks during the growing season.

Varieties

The sheer number of petunia varieties available can sometimes be overwhelming for even an experienced gardener. Understanding the different types of petunias will help you to select the best variety for your needs.

Petunias are in the same family as tobacco, tomatoes, gooseberries, and chili peppers.

Grandiflora

These petunias have the largest flowers, up to 4" across. Because of the size of the blooms, they are the most easily damaged by heavy rains and should be used in slightly protected areas. Most grandiflora varieties are mounding, but some also cascade. They are good for hanging baskets, window boxes, and other containers.



Malmberg's is committed to providing quality, locally grown plants and personal service. Stop by any of our three locations and let our knowledgeable staff assist you in finding the perfect flower, plant or accent piece to turn your space into your own personal garden retreat.

Garden Center Locations

20045 County Road 81
Rogers, MN 55311
(763) 428-2061

5120 N. Lilac Drive
Brooklyn Center, MN 55429
(763) 535-4695

13166 Johnson Memorial Dr.
Shakopee, MN 55379
(952) 233-2700



Grandiflora varieties:

Daddy series - unique veined blooms.

Double Cascades - double, ruffled flowers.

Prism Sunshine - eye-catching yellow petunia.

Sophistica - Uniquely colored large blooms.

Super Cascades - trailing, many colors available.

Multiflora

Multiflora petunias have flowers that are about 2" across and not as easily damaged by rain. They tend to be more compact and have more open blooms at one time. These petunias work well in containers and the garden.

Multiflora varieties:

Carpet series - compact, uniform plants.

Dolce Flambe - salmon, pink, & cream blooms.

Frost Mix - white edged flowers.

Mambo Series - dwarf plant with large flowers.

Milliflora

These compact plants have not only miniature foliage, but are also covered with miniature petunia flowers. They are great for mixing with other annuals in containers and hanging baskets.

Milliflora varieties:

Mini Petunias - multiple unique varieties.

Picobella Mix - stays neat and tidy all season.

Hedgiflora

Also called groundcover or spreading petunias. These varieties grow only about 6" tall, but can get to 3-4 feet wide with adequate water and fertilizer. They grow rapidly and should be fertilized weekly during the summer. Great for filling in large flower beds.

Hedgiflora varieties:

Easy Wave series - fuller growth than the original waves, cut back to encourage new growth.

Ramblin' series - mounding/spreading habit, fast growing.

Rootbeer Scented Petunias?

Scientists at the University of Florida have made an interesting discovery about flower scent. The original goal of their research was to increase pollination of tomato crops and, as a relative of tomatoes, the scientists sequenced the petunias genome to aid in their research.

What they found were 12 to 13 new genes whose purpose was unknown. After tweaking these genes, they found their function.

Individually they produce scents such as rose, clove, wintergreen, and rootbeer. Together to make up the unique scent of petunias.

With this information, scientists have been able to create flowers with unexpected scents. But, more important to many gardeners, they may be able to restore long lost scents to some of our favorite flowers.

In the history of plant breeding, growers have been selecting for bigger and better looking flowers and fruits. While doing this, scents have been lost. Although, this new research may be able to change that. First on their list, roses that smell like, what else, roses!

Read more at <http://news.discovery.com/tech/roses-flowers-custom-scented.html>

