

# Petunia

## Supertunia®



### NUTRITION

**pH:** 5.5 – 5.8

**EC:** (2:1 extraction method) 1.0 – 1.5

Constant feeding at 200ppm – 250ppm nitrogen with a fertilizer selected for grower's water quality and soil mix is recommended.

### TEMPERATURE

**Rooting out:** 65 – 72 F

**Growing on:** 55 – 68 F

**Holding:** 40 – 50 F

### WATERING

Maintain moderate soil moisture. Allow the soil to cycle from moist to slightly dry. Avoid both severe dry downs/wilting and long periods of wet soil, especially at cooler temperatures. To avoid soft rots in lower light, cooler temperatures, or higher humidity situations, water early in the day if possible to avoid prolonged exposure of water on foliage. Follow the plant grouping suggestions listed below under Growth Regulators to assist in proper water management.

### TIMING

**4" – 5":** 4 – 5 weeks with one 42 cell or 84 cell Supertunia® plant per container.

**6"/1GL Royale™:** 6 weeks with one 42 cell or 84 cell Supertunia plant per container.

**8":** 7 – 8 weeks with one 42 cell or 84 cell Supertunia plant per container.

**10" – 12" Hanging Basket:** 9 – 11 weeks with three to five Standard 84 plants per container.

**Supertunia 42 liners are used at Four Star and are recommended for best flower timing, flower count and plant size in smaller containers.** Supertunia 84s can also be considered. Supertunia 84s may finish about 1 week later than the Supertunia 42s. The Supertunia 84 finishes faster and more consistently than Standard 84 liners. They offer an option that balances shipping costs with improved performance. If Standard 84s are used for spring production, supplemental lighting, additional crop time, pinching, and additional PGR applications are required.

Supernovas are not recommended or required for baskets and large containers, but many growers are beginning to use them for early hanging basket and upright needs. Growth habit and timing may be different from Standard 84 liners, but flowering time and "retail ready" containers can be produced in portions of the year when not possible from a Standard liner. If mixing Supertunia and Standard liners in combination plantings, a pre-plant drench of Sumagic® (uniconazole) or Bonzi® (paclobutrazol) to the **Standard** liners may be helpful.

Larger upright or basket production needed for earlier season finishing should be planned using varieties listed below as "earliest" to flower and/or grown from Supertunia liners.

### PLANTING

Supertunias should be planted into a well drained soil mix selected to match individual water quality and fertilizer blends. Water in without saturating the mix and maintain a constant moderate soil moisture level for the first seven to 10 days for establishing new rooting. When using Supertunia treated liners, NO pinching is required unless deemed taller than desired. If Standard liners are used, pinch at transplant if size allows. Supertunias branch quite well and pinching is not necessarily needed, except for "shaping" purposes.

### LIGHT/LIGHTING

Supertunias should be grown in a high light area of the greenhouse for optimal flowering and plant development. Supertunia Supertunia liners have been treated for earlier flowering and will not require additional grower lighting. If very early crops are scheduled before the onset of 12-hour natural daylengths, daylength extension lighting is helpful. Also, if growing from Standard 84 liners, additional lighting to 14 hours/day lighting is required for early spring finish dates. Additional PGR treatments may also be required on non-Supertunia treated plants.



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The rates and chemicals listed are based on our southeast Michigan growing conditions, and are not recommended for nationwide application. Please adjust the rates and spray applications to your location and facility.



## GROWTH REGULATORS

As required, either a light spray of Sumagic at 5ppm – 10ppm or a 1ppm – 3ppm Bonzi drench can be applied to control growth. Treatments are usually made to smaller containers seven to 14 days after planting. Treatments to larger containers can be made when a desired “pre-finished” size is attained (two to four weeks before scheduled finish). Watch for the “softening” look and lighter green appearance of new growth as an indication for PGR treatment needs. In more northern areas, the lower rates should be used as a starting base, while in more southern areas, the higher rates will probably be needed. Other materials such as Topflor® (flurprimidol) and Piccolo® (paclobutrazol) can be used at rates that correspond with the degree of treatment recommended for Sumagic or Bonzi.

Cooler growing temperatures, high light levels, proper spacing, and drier growing practices can be very helpful at managing plant size. Supernova treated plants should require fewer PGR treatments than Standard 84 liners.

**When using Supernova liners, please refer to the Supernova Culture Guide for specific PGR recommendations. Florel® (ethephon) is not recommended for use with Supernovas, except possibly with *Nemesia* and *Diascia*.**

PGR requirements can vary greatly by variety and the plants should be grown – if possible – in the following groups for best performance.

1) Giant Pink, ‘Lavender Skies’, Pretty Much Picasso®, Vista Bubblegum®, Vista Fuchsia *Improved*, Vista Silverberry, and White are the most vigorous varieties and will require the most PGR attention.

- 2) Black Cherry, Bordeaux™, Honey, Latte, Limoncello, the mini Supertunias, Picasso in Blue®, Picasso in Pink®, Picasso in Purple™, Priscilla®, Raspberry Blast®, Rose Blast Charm, Really Red, Royal Magenta and Royal Velvet have average vigor and will/may need a PGR treatment. PGR treatments may need to be delayed on Black Cherry and Limoncello until active growth is seen and then group 2 PGR recommendations can be followed.
- 3) Bermuda Beach, Daybreak Charm, Flamingo, Indigo Charm, Orchid Charm, Pink Star Charm, Sangria Charm, Violet Star Charm, and Watermelon Charm are less vigorous early in their production and should require little, if any, PGR treatments.

**Pretty Much Picasso should be treated more heavily than other Supertunia varieties. A 3ppm – 5ppm Bonzi drench is often required. This variety finishes very nicely and much easier when grown outdoors.**

*Please use the flowering guide below as a further reference to help group plants together for easier production.*

## PEST and DISEASE MANAGEMENT

Pests are not much of an issue with Supertunias. Proper growing environments and watering practices should be followed to avoid Botrytis and various stem or root rots.

## OUTDOOR GROWING SCHEDULE

Most Supertunia *Petunia* can be grown outdoors in the earliest spring conditions (approximately frost to 25 F, or early to mid April in Michigan), if frost protection is provided. Black Cherry, Bordeaux, the Charms, Limoncello, Mini Rose Veined and Mini Strawberry Pink Veined should remain indoors and move outdoors in the third earliest spring conditions (light frost or late April/mid May in Michigan). These recommendations are based on average spring weather and should be adjusted for unseasonably severe or unseasonably mild conditions.



## OTHER TIPS

Supernova treated liners are highly recommended for small containers. For best combination planting performance, if mixing Supernova with non-Supernova treated plants, consider vigor of all plants.

Plants grown below an average daily temperature of 60 F can experience delay in flowering or reduced flower coverage, especially in poor weather conditions.

Black Cherry and Limoncello are very responsive to PGRs and should be treated after they actively begin to grow. A Bonzi drench of 1 – 3ppm is a good starting point.

Avoid scheduling most Charms early from Standard 84 trays, as they are more daylength/light quality sensitive and plants can become overgrown before flowering.

To best manage watering and PGR applications, it may be helpful to group the Supertunias as suggested by vigor into the three plant groups. Maintain proper soil pH levels to prevent possible root rot issues and iron deficiency. Soil test periodically and test the water source for water nutrient levels, and especially alkalinity levels.

## Earliest flowering from Standard liners;

- 1) Flamingo, Mini Rose Veined, Picasso in Pink, Picasso in Purple, Vista Bubblegum, Vista Fuchsia *Improved* and Vista Silverberry.
- 2) Bermuda Beach, Black Cherry, Daybreak Charm, Honey, Latte, Limoncello, Morning Glory Charm, Picasso in Blue, Pink Star Charm, Pretty Much Picasso, Orchid Charm, Really Red, Rose Blast Charm, Royal Velvet, Sangria Charm, Violet Star Charm, and White.
- 3) Bordeaux, Giant Pink, Indigo Charm, Lavender Skies, Mini Supertunia, Priscilla, Raspberry Blast, Royal Magenta and Watermelon Charm. This third group is best scheduled for peak week sales and later.

## Supertunia® Picasso In Pink 4.25 Grande™ at 4 weeks



Standard 84 liner



Supernova® 84 liner



Supernova® 42 liner

