

Cultural Information for:	Petunia Merlin	Annual
Common Name:	Petunia	
Botanical Name:	Petunia multiflora	
Seed Count:	255,000-312,000/oz.	9,000-11,000/ gram
Optimum Germination Temperature:	78°F / 26°C	
Optimum Growing Temperature:	55-68°F / 13-20°C	
Optimum pH:	5.5 – 6.0	
EC – Plug:	0.4 – 0.8 mmhos/cm (1:2) / 0.9 – 2.0 (SME) / 1.1 - 2.6 (Pour Thru)	
EC – Finishing:	0.9 – 1.3 mmhos/cm (1:2) / 2.1 – 3.5 (SME) / 2.7 - 4.6 (Pour Thru)	

Plug Culture – 5 weeks (405 / 15 x 27 tray)

Stage One (days 1-7) Sow raw or pelleted seed into a well-drained sterile media and maintain a temperature of 72-75°F/22-24°C. For proper and uniform germination do not cover the seed and use a fine mist for watering. If using pelleted seed, be sure to apply sufficient moisture at the start to thoroughly melt the pellets.

Stage Two (days 8-14) After the seedlings emerge, reduce moisture levels and allow the media to dry slightly in between fertilizer applications. Apply 100 ppm of nitrogen from a well-balanced calcium nitrate-based fertilizer and place in a well-ventilated greenhouse with high light. Optimum temperatures range from 65°F/18°C at night and 70°F/21°C during the day.

Stage Three (days 15-28) The seedlings are beginning to fill in the plug trays. Fertilize as needed to maintain strong growth. Supplemental lighting will promote leaf expansion and root development, especially during the darker months of January and February. If needed, apply B-Nine (daminozide) at 1,500 - 2,500 ppm / 0.15 – 0.25% as the leaves reach the plug tray edge to control growth.

Stage Four (days 29-35) The plants are now reaching maturity and are ready for transplanting into pots and packs. Reduce moisture and hold at 60°F/16°C, if necessary, until transplanted.

Transplanting

Container Size: Petunia Merlin can be sold in packs, pots and hanging baskets as well as combination planters.

Media: Use a well-drained disease-free, soilless media with a pH of 5.5 to 6.0 and a moderate fertilizer starter charge.

Temperature: Maintain night temperatures between 55-61°F/13-16°C and day temperatures between 61-68°F/16-20°C.

Fertilizer: Petunia Merlin is an early flowering petunia with average plant vigor. For best results, apply 150 - 200 ppm of nitrogen as needed by using a well-balanced fertilizer. Calcium nitrate-based fertilizers help to control growth but be sure to neutralize excess bicarbonate which raises the pH. The optimum EC level is 1.2 – 1.5 mmhos (2:1 dilution). Plants can be top dressed using a slow-release fertilizer 10 days prior to shipping to enhance consumer satisfaction.

Flowering: Petunia Merlin will flower in 10-12 weeks from sowing depending upon day length and temperature.

Growth Regulators: Petunia Merlin Blue Morn is vigorous and may require some growth regulating in order make salable plants. An application of 2,500 ppm/0.25% B-Nine (daminozide) ten days following transplanting will promote compact plants.

Marketing Tips: Petunia Merlin Blue Morn is a unique blue color helps soothe the soul on hot sizzling summer days. Combining Merlin Blue Morn in pots with Zinnia Profusion Double Hot Cherry, Profusion Double White or the Dianthus Diamond series adds interest and makes a striking statement.

Petunia Merlin Blue Morn is a 2003 All-America Selections Winner!