

Oct. 18--CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- The reviews of the Wave Petunias are mixed. Libby Tolley, who works at the Department of Agriculture, writes:

"I planted about five Wave Petunias in a large pot this past spring. They were blooming beautifully for a while, but then they started sending out these ugly, brown, stringlike runner growths. These brown strings started wrapping themselves around the other plants and eventually covered the whole plant. They were choking the buds and preventing them from blooming further.

"At first, I was ripping them off, but they kept coming back thicker, and I finally just ripped up all the plants. I talked to the groundskeepers here at the Department of Agriculture, but they had never heard of petunias doing that. Do you know of any petunias that send out growths like that? Did I get some sort of climbing petunias? I started call<sup>g</sup>ing them killer petunias. I don't want to get them next year."

Most garden centers list the plant as "vigorous spreaders" and "great fillers." According to plant specialists at Ohio State, The Wave Rose and Wave Misty Lilac varieties of wave petunias are less aggressive growers than the Wave Purple and Wave Pink varieties.

Any other "killer petunia" stories out there?