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Black petunia this summer's surprise hit

By steve Whysall 17 Jul 2010 In the Garden



Every year, there is one plant that seems to take gardeners by surprise and become the hit flower of summer. This year, the world's first black petunia, 'Black Velvet', developed by Ball horticultural in Chicago, is what the nursery industry calls the top "sleeper" plant - the one that no one expected to be as popular as it has turned out to be. But another variety of the black petunia, a variegated one with a yellow star pattern, is also flying off shelves.

"People love it, " says Scott Pearce, sales manager at GardenWorks in Burnaby. "We don't have many, but customers have been snapping them up the moment they see them. It is definitely the sleeper plant of the year. We are using it in some planters for special clients."



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