

# Million Bells enrich landscape, containers

Those who love plants have surely been to their favorite garden center this spring and noticed calibrachoa, the great warm-season performer with small flowers that look like petunias.

Calibrachoa (pronounced kal-ih-bruh-KO-uh) is more commonly called Million Bells. These plants are related to petunias and should be grown in full sun. They produce an unbelievable number of 1-inch-wide flowers from

spring until frost.

The plants grow up to 10 inches tall and have trailing stems that will spread to create a beautiful groundcover

mat or sprawl over the edge of containers or baskets.

If the plant gets a little out of hand, prune it to generate more growth and, more importantly, more flowers. It

will tolerate partial shade, but flower production will decrease according to the level of shade.

There are many series of Million Bells available in shades of blue, violet, purple, magenta, red, orange, bronze, yellow and white. Though it puts on a show of hundreds of flowers, dead-heading is not required as the plants are self-cleaning.

Million Bells, like petu-

nias, are vigorous, tolerate heat and have few insect pests. Unlike petunias, the leaves of Million Bells are not sticky. It also tolerates drought better and has a more bushy and compact growth habit than petunias.

Million Bells is suitable for both the landscape and containers. Either way, the effect is incredible.

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Calibrachoa spread and create beautiful groundcover mats, containers or hanging baskets. Plants such as this Cabaret Deeo Blue put on a show with hundreds of flowers.

