

The Gardeners Companion - The colors of the wave petunias

By [Dobson](#)

Wave petunias provide a rainbow of color to your landscape

If you want a great plant that will color your flower gardens from spring until the hard frost then you will love the wave petunia. This hardy plant is easy to grow and will grow to occupy a large space in your landscape plan. Not only is this plant beautiful, it comes in a wide range of colors.

The developers of horticultural products are always tinkering to develop something new to try to catch grower's attention, so any information I give will likely be superseded in the following growing seasons, but there is a wide array of what I would call stock colors from which to choose when you go to the [greenhouse](#) for wave petunia plants. In this hub I will show you samples of the plants I grew when I was in the business.



This is a selection of hanging baskets outside my main selling area. These are geranium baskets, Million Bell (baby petunias) and Wave Petunia hanging baskets shown.



This is a tray of single wave plants in 4inch pots. Many customers wanted to buy singles and make their own arrangements. You get a sense of how the colors can combine in this display.

Blue Waves



This to me seems more like a purple, but there is actually another offering that holds that description, so for the purpose of clarity we will stick with the blue moniker. When fully bloomed, these plants are striking, offering a profusion of color that is a contrast to the stock offerings of most varieties.

You certainly will find blues in regular petunias, Lobelias and other plant varieties, but these flowers are larger than most and stand out in your landscape plan. You want to be sure to water and fertilize the blue wave regularly to maximize the luminance of this wonderful color.

In my opinion the blue and white combine very well if you like to have a multi-color combination. I have also paired the blue with other plants, such as trailing Verbena, Ipomoea (Sweet Potato plant), Bacopa, Cape Daisy, Spikes and more. The blue just gives such a rich color to a mixed arrangement.

White Waves

White of course is a color that combines with everything to compliment the other color. However, by itself white can also be a dazzling choice. Notice how white the hanging baskets in my photograph are. These plants were watered daily with a water soluble fertilizer which had a nutrient composition of 20 parts Nitrogen, 10 parts phosphorus and 20 parts Potassium, also known commonly as 20-10-20.

With many plants you can skirt by with a minimum attempt at the proper fertilization regimen, but I found wave petunias to be a particular lot. First off all their color is less rich if your fertilization scheme falls short. Next you will begin to see the rich dark green foliage look like it is fading to the point it will begin to yellow. Then it may show yellow veins or streaks on the leaves. It is not too late to correct this, just begin feeding the plant with a water soluble fertilizer.



A single white wave basket.



Three white wave baskets together.

Pink Waves

I must admit this variety is the least impressive to my eye. Even when you get the fertilization and watering just so the pink color is a pale pink at best. The pink pairs well with the blue wave if you want some variety. The pink and white will also work, but you will have a lot of soft colors that may not be as dramatic as you choose.



This is the only picture I could find that shows the color of the pink waves.

True Purple Waves

This may be the most stunning of colors I have grown of the wave petunias. If properly fertilized these have a deep color that really seems more like wine to me. They are just gorgeous, especially when paired with a contrasting color, such as white or another plant like the trailing verbena or Mediterranean Vinca.



This is a purple wave basket just beginning to bloom.

Red Waves

I did very little with the red wave petunias. When right they are as striking as the true Purple, but I found the varieties available to me to be not as impressive. It seemed the color of the blooms faded sooner than any of the other colors, even when special attention was devoted to proper feeding and watering of the plants.

Customers seemed to be drawn to the plant because of the unique color, but with a greenhouse full of red geraniums it just did not stand out enough to make the stock worthwhile. Again something like this would pair well with white or another color out of its family. I did put together a red, white and blue with fair results, so if you want to set up something for a fourth of July gathering this might be an idea.



This is the only photo I have of the red wave petunia.

Yellow Waves

I would consider this to be more of a fringe color. While I have seen many arrangements with yellow waves, I was not impressed with them and never really tried to grow them for my customers. It is a unique combination that some people would find appealing, but I chose to exclude them from my inventory.

Multi-color Waves

There is a multitude of hybrids that have more than one color in the blooms. As I stated near the beginning the flower breeders are always creating something new to try to invigorate the market and draw more buyers to their product. If you search online you can see what varieties are new and the full range of possibilities.