

Wave Petunia vs. Supertunia

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Wave petunias make excellent ground covers.

Petunias (*Petunia x hybrida*) took American gardens by storm when the first Wave petunia was introduced in 1995. By 2006, the Supertunia arrived on the scene. With approximately 55 cultivars of Wave petunias and 30 Supertunia cultivars, there is a petunia to meet any need. Growing in a sunny location in humus-rich well-drained soil, both the Wave petunia and the Supertunia bloom from spring until frost.

Uses

Wave petunias are known for their ability to blanket the garden in color and are often used as ground covers or as borders. They are also a favorite container flower and can be grown in hanging baskets. Supertunias, on the other hand, are better suited for hanging baskets or container gardens as their long vines reach a length of 3 feet or more.

Growing Habits

The Wave petunia is an aggressive grower that quickly overtakes the allotted space. It will choke out other flowers grown in the same container or near them in a bed. Supertunias, are less aggressive making them suitable for adding to containers and hanging baskets along with other flowers.

Propagation

Wave petunias are started from seed and can be sown inside six to eight weeks before the last frost for summer planting. Supertunia is sterile and can only be propagated by stem cuttings. Buy Supertunias from a reputable nursery.

Blooming

Wave petunias bloom from spring until fall, but tend to become leggy during midseason when blooms may become less showy. Supertunias, on the other hand, tend to perform well and bloom consistently throughout the summer. Both require supplemental fertilizer to keep up with their rapid growth. While Wave petunias thrive with an addition of fertilizer every two weeks, Supertunias require weekly feeding.

Considerations:

If you love petunias but prefer them mixed with other flowers in hanging baskets and containers, the Supertunia is a better choice. However, if your idea of beauty is a mass of petunias that sprawl across the garden, the Wave petunia is a better choice. Both require frequent watering to keep up with their rapid growth, and both are considered self-cleaning, so you won't have to deadhead.