



Much better than the old-fashioned kinds, these blooms are perfect for pots.

Dazzling Petunias

Anyone of voting age with a mother who gardens probably remembers old-fashioned petunias. Their fragrant, ruffled blossoms in every conceivable color have long been a fixture in flowerbeds. Today, we enjoy many new trailing and mounding types. They do great in containers and stand up like troupers to Southern weather, conquering heat and humidity.

Recipe for Success

• TRY THESE

Wave petunias are famous for their performance in Southern gardens. Trailing plants spread out like a ground cover; a single plant can ramble 4 feet or more. Sporting 2- to 3-inch blossoms, they bloom all summer without being pinched back. Purple was the first color of the series, but now you can buy pink, lavender, lilac, and blue versions too.

They're great for hanging baskets and window boxes. For big containers, try Tidal Wave petunias. Plants form 16- to 22-inch mounds. Our favorite is 'Tidal Wave Silver.' Tough as nails, this plant features silvery flowers with purple throats.

Supertunias trail like the Waves, growing 6 to 10 inches tall and spreading up to 4 feet. They offer a wider range of colors, including white, magenta,

and yellow, as well as bicolored and double-flowering types.

Surfinias are true miniatures. Multitudes of small, 1½-inch flowers come in numerous eye-catching colors. At 3 to 6 inches tall, they're the lowest growing of the trailers. And though they are vigorous growers, they don't spread as wide as the others. Use them to spill over the edges of window boxes and hanging baskets.

• WHAT PETUNIAS NEED

Petunias prefer full sun with good air circulation and fertile, loose, well-drained soil. To keep them going and making more flowers, feed them every two weeks with a water-soluble fertilizer such as 15-30-15 or 20-20-20. Removal of spent flowers isn't necessary. Plants may look a bit tired by July. Trimming them back by a quarter will result in new leaves and flowers.

Don't Miss These!

A ZILLION NONSTOP BLOOMS in shades of red, yellow, rose, terra-cotta, salmon, white, or blue blanket a calibrachoa, which looks like a miniature petunia. Forming a trailing mound, it's perfect for pots and hanging baskets. Look for Million Bells, Superbells, and Starlette calibrachos.

All petunias need good drainage, which growing in a pot provides.

