

New petunias triumph by pairing two hues

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The Pinstripe petunia promises to be among the more unusual new varieties for spring planting.

The Rhythm and Blues petunia might forever change your mind about flowers with different-colored edges. The riveting blue petunia is a stunner and will leave neighbors aching with jealousy.

You might think petunias aren't the longest-blooming flowers in the garden. True, but no matter where you live in the United States, there is a time when petunias thrive, producing flowers that border on the spectacular.

Rhythm and Blues is a mounding, trailing petunia, packing a bounty of flowers that have a rare icy blue hue with a white edge. It has surprising vigor and longevity. Although touted for the landscape, Rhythm and Blues also lends itself to creating extraordinary baskets and planters.

As a companion plant, use complementary orange African marigolds or white varieties of tall mealycup sage (*Salvia farinacea*).

Another new petunia that is causing a stir in trials is Pinstripe. It's such a dark purple that it's almost black, and it sports a thin creamy white star pattern. Black Velvet offers the same color minus the stripes.

To complement the petunias, consider yellow or cream-colored large African marigolds.

http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/home_garden/stories/2011/02/13/new-petunias-triumph-by-pairing-two-hues.html?sid=101