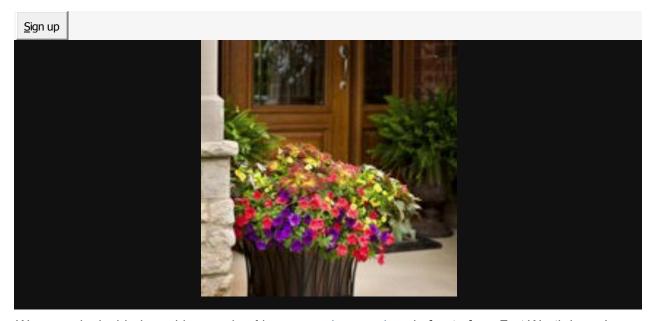


Supertunias

- CONTAINER GARDENS
- JULY 5, 2012
- BY: JOEL HOWALD



We recently decided to add a couple of large <u>container gardens</u> in front of our Fort Worth home's white picket fence in our yard to help celebrate the Fourth of July holiday. My better half and I both agreed to get a burst of <u>annuals</u>color and give "<u>Supertunias</u>" a try (the bright red hybrid <u>petunias</u>) along with some white <u>vinca</u> flowers, also annuals. It may be too early to tell yet, but it looks like we have a winner!

The two matching blue container gardens have been planted using several of the red "Supertunias" annuals and a bunch of white<u>vinca</u> annuals and all of the flowers are already beginning to respond nicely to their daily <u>water</u>supply.

View slideshow: Supertunias- Proven Winners



Try Supertunias for some striking red annuals color in your container gardens Photo credit:

proven winner



Video: Annuals for sun

They are getting a full 8 hours of sun each day and a daily wand-watering to counteract the hot summer heat and are beginning to show signs of growth. Here's a few tips in case you want to give those "Supertunias" a try too.

- Select a large container with a water drain hole for your annual petunias.
- Add pottery shards, small stones or gravel to prevent soil from seeping out and protect Supertunias and vinca roots from standing in water at bottom of container.
- Place good quality potting soil with fertilizer mixed in with soil. Mix in compost from compost pile. Fill container gardens to just under rim.
- Make hole in center of soil in container garden for Supertunias and vincas from nursery pots and plant so tops of root balls are just at soil level.
- Add mulch over soil and water gently but thoroughly until water comes out of drain hole.

Jane Ford an Advanced Master Gardener also has these suggestions about "Supertunias"

Petunias and other annuals are bountiful at every garden center in town — and they are "super" — especially those Supertunias.

If you have never tried them, or if this is the first year you have added these gorgeous petunias to your garden or container, you are in for a treat.

Several years ago I bought a 6-pack of red Supertunias, not realizing what they were, and soon became a believer. The large, silky looking blooms began to multiply almost immediately after being planted, and all summer long this plant outdid anything I had ever experienced.

Supertunias come in a wide variety of colors: purple, white, pink, rose, rose with green edged petals, yellow, red — and the list goes on and on.

They like direct sunlight and soil that has been amended with compost or, if in a container, a good potting soil mix.

They are vigorous growers, so they need to be watered every day or every other day if in a container, and at least once a week if in the ground.

As with all the hybrid petunias, they are heavy feeders. In other words, they need to be fertilized often. To satisfy their appetites, mix a slow-release fertilizer in the soil when planting, and use a liquid fertilizer in the watering can once a week.

Watch the video <u>Annuals For Sun</u> and view the slide show <u>Supertunias-Proven Winners</u> for more information on planting Supertunias those bright annuals.