



# Do You Have to Snip Off Dead Blossoms on a Wave Petunia?

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Petunias are popular annual plants that are appreciated for their long flowering period and colorful blossoms. Introduced by the Ball Horticultural Company, Wave petunias are a series of low-growing, low-maintenance petunias that tolerate heat, cold, rain and humidity. Unlike traditional petunias, Wave petunias don't need deadheading for successful cultivation. Instead, dead blossoms shrivel and fall from the plant all by themselves. However, if you don't want to wait, dead blossoms can be snipped from the plant to help it maintain an attractive appearance.

## 1. Sunlight Requirements

- Full sun exposure is absolutely essential to keeping Wave petunias looking and blooming their best throughout the entire growing season. Though Wave petunias won't die when grown in partial shade, they often become spindly and produce fewer blossoms in response to inadequate sunlight. For best results, plant Wave series petunias in locations that receive at least six hours of direct sunlight each day.

## Irrigation and Fertilization Requirements

- Like most types of petunias, Wave petunias grow best in moist, moderately fertile and well-draining soils. Water Wave petunias regularly while they're actively growing to prevent the soil from becoming too dry. One inch of supplemental irrigation per week should be enough to keep the soil evenly moist, though more water may be required to maintain moist soil in hot, dry climates. Fertilize Wave petunias every 10 to 14 days with a balanced, water-soluble garden fertilizer to provide them with the nutrients they need to bloom heavily.

## Deadheading Wave Petunias

- Though not strictly necessary for successful cultivation, deadheading Wave petunias keeps your plant looking its best and encourages another round of blooming. Use a pair of sharpened and sterilized pruning shears to snip dead

blossoms from your Wave petunias. When removing spent blossoms, cut the stem down to a healthy leaf node or flower bud. Just a few days later, your Wave petunias will be covered in beautiful new blossoms.

## **Pruning Requirements**

- If your Wave petunias become leggy or stop flowering, you can prune them to stimulate the production of healthy new foliage and blossoms. Use the sharpened and sterilized pruning shears to cut the plant's shoots back to half their length; make clean pruning cuts just above healthy leaf nodes or buds. After pruning your Wave petunias, water them generously and apply a single application of a high-phosphorus, "bloom booster" fertilizer to force new growth.