

# The Gardener's Companion - How to grow wave petunias 83

By [Dobson](#)

During my time as a greenhouse owner I had numerous customers come to my place looking for something easy to grow that would be hard to kill. Obviously, with any plant, there is the potential to not meet some of its need and cause it to stop living, but over time I realized there was one that was preferred over most others, the wave petunia. This easy growing plant is a great starter plant for any novice flower gardener.



A white wave petunia hanging basket. Notice how compact and full the plant is as well as the profusion of blooms.

- [The Gardener's Companion - Essential garden tools](#)

Every gardener has their own arsenal to tools to put to use when the weather warms and the birds begin to sing, heralding the approach of the growing season. If you poll 100 gardeners you will likely...

## Habit

The wave petunia blends the habit of the petunia and a trailing vine plant. The flowers are characteristic of the original petunia, in multiple colors of white, pink, red, purple and yellow. These [flowers bloom](#) profusely throughout the growing season and do not require plucking the way a traditional petunia would.

Wave petunias come in several varieties: trailing, mounding and spreading types. They are good for [containers](#), hanging baskets and will do fine planted directly in the ground. The trailing types will spread two to three feet, so plan your growing application accordingly.

Wave petunias prefer a full sun location. They will tolerate partial sun, but do not do well in the shade. Heat is not a problem as long as you water and fertilize them sufficiently. You can check the soil with your fingers and if it is dry there is a need for attention.

- [The Gardener's Companion:How to grow potatoes](#)

If you are here you have undoubtedly reached the point of asking how can I raise my own vegetables to save myself and family some money. I expect the following will give you some knowledge so you get how easy...

## Fertilizer for your wave petunias



Miracle-Gro 1750123 5-Pound All Purpose Plant Food

**Price:** \$10.96  
List Price: \$19.99



Miracle-Gro 1750119 10-Pound All Purpose Plant Food

**Price:** \$22.02  
List Price: \$28.79



Miracle-Gro 1001501 32-Ounce All Purpose Liquid Plant Food

**Price:** \$5.35  
List Price: \$12.99



SUPERthrive Plant Vitamins 16 oz

**Price:** \$27.89  
List Price: \$31.80



Miracle-Gro Shake'n Feed All Purpose Plant Food 8 lb. #1750719

**Price:** \$13.55  
List Price: \$19.99



Miracle-Gro 100410 Lawn and Garden Feeder

**Price:** \$9.81  
List Price: \$16.49



Green Light Organic Super Bloom - 2 lb #97002

**Price:** \$12.39  
List Price: \$15.06



Miracle-Gro 100819 4-1/2-Pound Shake'n Feed All Purpose Plant Food

**Price:** \$9.61  
List Price: \$19.99



A pink wave petunia basket just beginning to bloom. Notice the deep green foliage.

## Growing from seed

Wave petunias can be grown from seed, using a seeding tray and soil less mixture. The soil less mixture is preferred because it does not harden when wet and make the seeds fight for a place to grow. It is preferred to get palletized seeds, those which are coat to allow them to be handled easier, as the seeds are tiny and difficult to work with by hand

- [How to Select Proper Gardening Gloves](#)

Gardening can be rough on a persons hands. Although we may not always enjoy wearing gloves because they make our hands hot or are bulky, gardeners really do need to protect their hands from the elements...

- [The Gardener's Companion: How to use a Garden Tiller](#)

For a gardener, there are a few essential tools to make your task possible. The most basic is the [garden](#) hoe, which is used to chop weeds, make rows in the plowed earth and cover seeds after they are...



This is another white wave hanging basket. These plants were watered each day with a [water](#) soluble fertilizer.

- [The Gardener's Companion - Using a string trimmer to keep your yard in check](#)

Cutting the grass on your [lawn](#) is a job everyone is familiar with. You can employ the use of either a riding lawn mower or a walk behind or push mower to handle a majority of the real estate you are...



Example of a wave petunia not pinched correctly. Notice the long, lanky branches that cause the plant to be asymmetrical.

- [The Gardener's Companion: How to grow cucumbers and squash](#)

When you plan a garden, you need to have in mind what exactly you will put in the confines of your plot so you can plan to have sufficient space for everything. Some crops, like corn require a lot of...

### Growing from cutting

The wave petunias will have fine, hair like fibers along the stem that can develop into roots when placed in contact with [potting soil](#) or dirt. In fact, cuttings of wave petunias stuck into dirt, watered and receiving sufficient heat (50-60 degrees) will sprout roots in 7-10 days. A word of warning, though, this is only intended for growth at home as doing this for commercial purposes would be a copyright violation for the developer of the variety.

- [The Gardener's Companion - How to grow tomatoes](#)

Over several decades of my [gardening](#) experience, the one vegetable that brings the most earnest anticipation is the humble tomato. You see, some vegetables are nearly guaranteed to grow successfully,...



A purple wave petunia basket.

## Fertilizing

Wave petunias are heavy feeders, meaning they like the fertilizer to be given frequently. In one of the reference books I used when growing for resale I read about an experiment at a producer of liquid [fertilizer](#) where the petunias were fed two-three times the recommended amount of liquid fertilizer and thrived from the experience. Perhaps you should stick to the manufacturer's guidance and only fertilize every 7-10 days.

- [The Gardener's Companion - How to use a lawn mower](#)

As the weather begins to warm in my neighborhood there is a set of familiar sounds, smells and sights that delight the senses and herald the official start of spring and the growing season. It will sound...

## Companion plants

I would put just about anything in a hanging basket with a wave petunia. The thin to keep in mind is that the wave petunia wants to use all the space, so you need something just as vigorous or the wave petunia can choke it out. I have used trailing verbena, ostenespermum, Dracena (spikes), geraniums, Ipomea (sweet potato vines, the flower variety), million bells and more to combine nicely with these favorites of every gardener.

## Care

I sold a whopping amount of wave petunias in everything from a four pack to single 4 inch pots and quarts up to large hanging baskets. There really is no end to the possibilities with these plants.

When I grew the "waves", as I called them, I would pinch the branches off as they begin to get long on the first set of vines so the plant would become stockier. You can see a plant that is unattended at the local garden center or big box store, as it will have thin little vines that are easily broken by handling or the wind. In contrast, plants that have been pinched will weather the summer much better, sustaining all but exceptional wind and storms

Wave petunias will grow fast and become root bound within a short time, so if you buy individual plants, make sure to provide them with a pot that has plenty of growing space. If you will take your plant out of the pot about six weeks after you start growing it you will find the roots have wrapped around the bottom of the pot and filled in all the available space. If this happens you can take a knife and cut the bottom half of the roots off the root system to allow for more growth space. Don't worry, this will not kill the plant, but actually will invigorate it.

Also, as the plant matures it will require more fertilizer to preserve the dark green color you desire. Be careful to put the petunia in a well drained pot as too much water will leave the soil wet and turn your plant yellow. If this happens hold off on watering and get the plant in full sun to dry it out.

## Planters for your wave petunia growing pleasure.



[Green Deck Rail Planter](#)

**Price:** \$10.10  
List Price: \$14.29



[EarthBox RB-EB-TRC-PBB Garden Kit, Terra Cotta](#)

**Price:** \$41.06  
List Price: \$70.00



[Strathwood Galvanized-Iron Square Planter, Set of 3](#)

**Price:** \$34.99  
List Price: \$60.00



[Stray Cat Planter](#)

**Price:** \$35.99  
List Price: \$39.99



[Strathwood Galvanized Steel Planters, Charcoal Finish, Set of 3 \[Amazon Frustration-Free Packaging\]](#)

**Price:** \$59.99  
List Price: \$90.00

## The Gardener's Companion - How to grow wave petunias

Wave petunias can be found all over the place in the spring and fall, covering many places with a beautiful carpet of color. They are a favorite of landscapers because two or three can easily cover a 5-6 foot diameter area. They are hearty, growing continuously from mid spring until killed by frost.

Enjoy the experience of planting wave petunias, perhaps the easiest flower you will ever grow.



[Matthews Redwood BT20PG Barrel Planter](#)

**Price:** \$27.15



[Gertruda the Weiner Dog Planter](#)

**Price:** \$39.99

List Price: \$39.99



[ITML Horticultural SR1600NB Sierra Planter, 16" Bronze](#)

**Price:** \$22.00

List Price: \$126.69



[Deck & Fence Railing Planter, 24" Terra Cotta](#)

**Price:** \$12.99



[Blacksmith Cradle Planter - 36" Long](#)

**Price:** \$39.50

List Price: \$79.95



White wave petunias in hanging baskets.

- [The Gardener's Companion: How to grow green beans](#)

One of the staples of our garden each year is green beans. In truth it is the one of the few green vegetables my children will eat. Plus, my wife and I grew up in families that included this vegetable in...

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