



Black Velvet goes with just about
anything for perfectly **stunning**
combos

Black Velvet Petunia
Breathless White Euphorbia
Ballerina Compact White Gaura

Baïi®

Black Velvet

for mono or mixed container

elegance

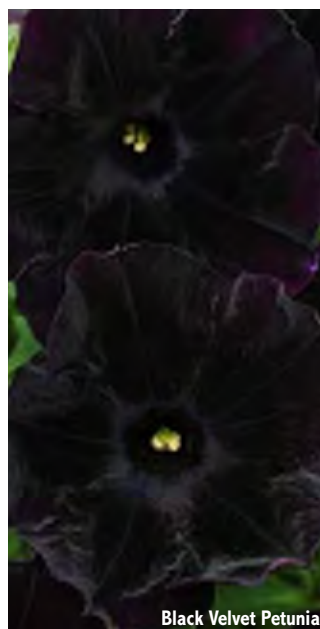


Black Velvet Petunia

Black Velvet is the world's first solid black petunia, and you've been the first selected to sample this 2011 breeding breakthrough from Ball FloraPlant!

There's a lot of buzz about this new and unique color. It's the one consumers have been looking for!

These upright, mounded plants are early to flower, have a tightly branched habit, and are filled with color all season. This low-energy input item is easy to grow, and looks stunning in combos with just about anything.




Black Velvet Petunia

Visit ballhort.com today to check out the complete line of terrific products from Ball FloraPlant.

Ball®

Culture

PETUNIA 
Petunia x hybrida

New Black Velvet

Height: 8 to 12 in. (20 to 30 cm)
Spread: 8 to 12 in. (20 to 30 cm)

A **Simply Beautiful®** selection.
Supplied as certified, disease-free cuttings through the Ball® Certified Plants Program.

Propagation

Choose a well-drained medium with an EC of 0.75 to 0.80 mmhos and a pH of 5.4 to 5.8.

Stick cuttings within 12 to 24 hours of arrival. Cuttings can be stored overnight, if necessary, at 45 to 50°F (7 to 10°C).

Soil temperature should be maintained at 68 to 73°F (20 to 23°C) until roots are visible.

Begin fertilization with 75 to 100 ppm N when roots become visible. Increase to 150 to 200 ppm N as roots develop.

Once roots are visible, the media should be kept moderately wet and never saturated. This is critical to prevent iron deficiency and the associated chlorotic foliage which can develop.

Appropriate water management, air and light levels should eliminate the need for chemical plant growth regulators (PGRs).

Avoid stretch by moving crop to cooler air temperature during the last weeks of propagation.

A pinch in propagation is not necessary.

Black Velvet Petunia should be ready for transplant 3 weeks after sticking.

Growing on to finish

Media

A pH of 5.4 to 5.8 is optimum.

Black Velvet Petunia prefer a well-drained soil.

Temperature

Night: 53 to 61°F (11 to 17°C)

Day: 59 to 76°F (14 to 24°C)

Light

Black Velvet Petunia should be grown under moderate light levels; 5,000 to 8,000 f.c. (50,000 to 80,000 Lux) is the ideal range.

Low light levels promote stem stretch and reduced plant quality.

For fastest flowering during short daylength, maintain night temperatures at 59 to 61°F (14 to 16°C) and use lighting to provide a daylength of 10 hrs.

Watering

The medium should be allowed to dry between waterings. However, periods of sustained wilting should be avoided. Petunias are susceptible to Botrytis and root diseases – avoid high humidity, constantly saturated media and wet foliage.

Crop Schedule & Uses (Crop Schedule in Weeks)

	4-In. (10-Cm) Pot 1 ppp*	6 to 8-In. (15 to 20-Cm) Pots 2 to 3 ppp*	10 to 12-In. (25 to 30-Cm) Pots 3 to 5 ppp*
Unrooted cuttings	8-10	9-11	11-14
Rooted cuttings	5-7	6-8	8-11

*ppp: Plants per pot or basket

Problems	Causes
Plant collapse	Wet media for an extended period (Pythium) Rhizoctonia due to planting too deep
Delayed flowering	Daylength too short Late application of growth regulators
Excessive vegetative growth	High ammonia concentration in the soil Over-fertilization under low light conditions Low light levels and over-watering; wet media
Poor branching	Low fertilization; lack of nitrogen
Stretched plants	Low light levels
Chlorosis	Iron deficiency High pH Nitrogen deficiency

Fertilizer

Black Velvet Petunia have a high feed requirement.

Use constant feed with a balanced fertilizer at 225 to 300 ppm N with additional iron as needed.

A full complement of minor elements should be provided to the plant.

Regular leaching with clear water will help to reduce buildup of excess salts in media.

Media pH Management

Plants must be monitored regularly for early, visual signs of upward pH drift (interveinal yellowing on youngest leaves). Regular soil pH tests are an excellent way to identify movements in pH before they create visual symptoms, which can be difficult to correct.

Periodic application of acidic feed or drench applications of a chelated iron product can be used to maintain appropriate pH levels.

An effective method of lowering pH is a soil drench of iron sulfate. The foliage must be rinsed immediately after treatment since the iron sulfate solution which can result in phytotoxicity to flowers and foliage.

Pinching

Black Velvet Petunia are free-branching and do not require pinching. Pinching will delay flowering approximately 2 weeks.

Controlling Growth

Use high light levels and cool temperatures to control growth.

To control early growth and improve flowering and habit, growers can use 1 or more applications of B-Nine (1,500 to 2,500 ppm) starting 7 to 14 days after transplant. B-Nine applications late in the crop can cause instability in flower color.

Mature plants which are approaching shipping size can be drenched with Bonzi (0.25 to 1.0 ppm) to significantly slow vegetative growth while allowing flowering to continue.

Use of PGRs can delay flowering 1 to 2 weeks. Avoid spraying once flower buds appear.

In general, more frequent applications of any growth regulator at a lower concentration will produce the best results.

These recommendations for plant growth regulators should be used only as general guidelines. Growers must trial all chemicals under their particular conditions.

Common Problems

Insects: Aphids, thrips, whitefly, leafminers, fungus gnats.

Diseases: Botrytis, Rhizoctonia, Pythium.

Because Petunias are susceptible to several viruses, it is vital to begin with cuttings supplied from clean stock. All Black Velvet Petunia cuttings are derived from culture and virus-indexed stock from the Ball® Certified Plants program. Always start with clean flats and pots, and apply a broad spectrum preventative fungicide drench following transplant.

NOTE: Growers should use the information presented here as a starting point. Crop times will vary depending on the climate, location, time of year and greenhouse environmental conditions. Chemical and PGR recommendations are only guidelines. It is the responsibility of the applicator to read and follow all the current label directions for the specific chemical being used in accordance with all regulations.

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