

Wonder Wave® Series Spreading Petunia Landscape Tips

Important Notes for Growing & Using Wonder Wave® Petunias in the Landscape

- **Start with “fresh” plugs.** Avoid starting from rootbound plugs. Plants grown from rootbound plugs may thrive in the greenhouse or nursery environment. However, the same plants may not be able to generate enough roots to adequately sustain themselves when planted outside. **Wonder Wave** plugs that have been scheduled and transplanted promptly will root out better in the container and perform better when planted in the landscape. Allowing the containers to dry out slightly between watering encourages better root development. Do not let plants wilt.
- **Acclimate plants before planting.** As a general rule, greenhouse or nursery-grown plants will adapt better in the landscape if they are hardened off prior to planting. Exposing plants to the outside temperatures and light allows the soil to dry between watering and helps reduce transplant shock.
- **Plant well-rooted plants.** Avoid planting poorly rooted plants into the landscape. Poorly rooted plants may wilt quickly if the temperatures become very warm soon after planting.
- **Follow good soil preparation practices.** **Wonder Wave** petunias tolerate a wide range of soil conditions. However, tilling the soil for good aeration, adding amendments, raising the beds to provide good drainage, maintaining the proper pH (6.5 to 7.0 is optimum), and using a broad spectrum fungicidal drench all contribute to successful landscape plantings. Plants will take off more quickly if a liquid feed is used before planting. See “Provide Adequate Nutrition” for more details.
- **Rotate plantings.** While it is tempting to use **Wonder Wave** petunias every year due to their exceptional garden performance, it is not recommended to plant petunias in the same beds every year so that the build-up of harmful disease pathogens specific to all petunias may be avoided. This can occur whenever the same type of plants are used in the same bed year after year.

■ **Petunias prefer sun.** **Wonder Wave** petunias thrive in bright, sunny locations with at least 6 hours of direct sunlight. Sun is a **MUST** to keep **Wonder Wave** plants covered with blooms and looking terrific all season long.

■ **Space adequately.** For fast fill, space **Wonder Wave** petunias 12 to 18 in. (30 to 45 cm) apart in the landscape. **Wonder Wave** petunias spread 3 to 4 ft. (0.9 to 1.2 m), so they can be spaced as far as 24 in. (60 cm) apart. Spacing plants closer than 12 in. (30 cm) can lead to overcrowding and contribute to disease.

■ **Irrigation.** **Wonder Wave** petunias are excellent landscape performers. However, like any other plant, they need adequate water after planting in order to get established in the landscape. During the season, do not overwater. Night watering is not recommended. Morning watering is preferred.

■ **Provide adequate nutrition.** Give plenty of feed. **Wonder Wave** petunias are vigorous growers and benefit from heavier feeding than standard petunias, therefore give plenty of feed throughout the life of the planting. *Before Planting:* A good way to get the plants off to a fast start is to water the plants with a liquid fertilizer, such as Daniels, prior to planting. *At Planting:* A slow-release fertilizer (such as NutriCoat or Osmocote), which is released by temperature, is recommended. For best season-long growth we suggest the following: incorporate slow release at half rate at installation. Too much fertilizer too soon will cause plants to put on leaves, but not flowers. At approximately the half-way point in the life of the landscape, apply another half rate of the slow release formula. In regions where temperatures are elevated, utilize the 8 to 9 month release formulation as this will provide fertilizer longer into the season. *During the Growing Season:* Because **Wonder Wave** petunias are vigorous growers, using a liquid feed throughout the season, in addition to slow-release fertilizer, will give best plant performance. Fertilize with a liquid feed such as Daniels 10-4-3 (1 tablespoon per gallon, approximately 300 ppm) for approximately 6 waterings and water with plain water on the 7th watering. Later in the season, if the plants start to turn yellow, one or two liquid feeds with a higher nitrate level such as 20-10-20, (15-2-20 or 10-10-10 at 250 ppm N High nitrate, low ammonium) can be applied. Always follow the rates recommended on the label.

■ **Mulching.** Use at least 2 in. (5 cm) of mulch. Mulch helps by keeping soil temperatures down through insulation and reflection of light, keeping weeds in check and conserving moisture for possible fewer irrigation cycles.

Additional Tips for Using Wonder Wave Petunias in Containers

■ **Wonder Wave** petunias are multi-purpose! In addition to making a wonderful flowering groundcover, they're spectacular in hanging baskets, large containers, street planters and window boxes.

■ Containers dry out more quickly than ground plantings. Since containers need to be watered more frequently, nutrients are likely to be leached from the containers more quickly. As a result they may also require more frequent feeding.

■ Keep your **Wonder Wave** petunias well-fed and don't let them dry out between watering. Apply a liquid fertilizer once a week or use a combination of liquid and slow-release fertilizers, following the rates recommended on the labels.

For more information on **Wonder Wave** spreading petunias, visit Wave-Rave.com or BallLandscape.com.

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