

Petunia Fenice, Merlin

Crop	Petunia
Series	Fenice, Merlin
Botanical name	<i>Petunia hybrid</i>
Plant type	Annual
Seed type	Raw & Pellet
Seed count	7,000-11,000 seeds / gr, 700-900 pellets / gr
Germination	25°C - 7 days light favored
Growing	13-25°C
Optimum pH	5.5-6.5

Plug Culture: 5 weeks (405 cell tray)

Stage 1 (days 1-7) Sow raw or pelleted seed into a well-drained sterile media and maintain a temperature 25°C. For proper and uniform germination do not cover the seed and use a fine mist for watering. If using pelleted seed, be sure to apply sufficient moisture at the start to thoroughly melt the pellets.

Stage 2 (days 8-14) After the seedlings emerge, reduce moisture levels and allow the media to dry slightly in between fertilizer applications. Apply 100 ppm of nitrogen from a well-balanced calcium nitrate based fertilizer and place in a well-ventilated greenhouse with high light. Optimum temperatures range from 18°C at night and 25°C during the day.

Stage 3 (days 15-28) The seedlings are beginning to fill in the plug trays. Fertilize as needed to maintain strong growth. Supplemental lighting will promote leaf expansion and root development; especially during the darker months of January and February. If needed, apply plant growth regulators at 1,500 - 2,500 ppm / 0.15-0.25% as the leaves reach the plug tray edge to control growth.

Stage 4 (days 29-35) The plants are now reaching maturity and are ready for transplanting into pots and packs. Reduce moisture and hold at 16°C, if necessary, until transplanted.

Transplanting to finish: 5-7weeks

Container Size: Petunia Fenice and Merlin can be sold in packs, pots and hanging baskets as well as combination planters.

Media: Use a well-drained disease-free media with a pH of 5.5 to 6.5 and a moderate fertilizer starter charge.

Temperature: Maintain night temperatures between 13-16°C and day temperatures between 25°C.

Fertilizer: Petunia Merlin is an early flowering petunia with average plant vigor. For best results, apply 150-200 ppm of nitrogen as needed by using a well-balanced fertilizer. Calcium nitrate based fertilizers help to control growth but be sure to neutralize excess bicarbonate which raises the pH. The optimum EC level is 1.2-1.5 mS/cm (2:1 slurry). Plants can be top dressed using a slow-release fertilizer 10 days prior to shipping to enhance consumer satisfaction.

Flowering: Petunia Merlin will flower in 10-12 weeks from sowing depending upon day length and temperature.

All information given is intended for general guidance only and may have to be adjusted to meet individual needs. Cultural details are based on Asian conditions such as in Japan and Sakata cannot be held responsible for any crop damage related to the information given herein. Always follow manufacturer's label instructions. Testing a few plants prior to treating the entire crop is best.