

“RAY™ - PETUNIA”

“Ray™” a mounding Petunia hybrida, is a sensational crop series for early spring sales and beyond. Expect a perfect mounded habit combined with a profusion of grandiflora size flowers Delivering incredible continuous color all spring, summer and fall.

Danziger Ray™ varieties are well established in the market place and are universally known to growers for incredible garden performance, dependable plant vigor, superior heat tolerance and improved disease resistance. Plants are covered with attractive an attractive canopy of very large flowers. Flower size measures approximately 3 ½ inches in diameter.

The series includes 6 breeding innovations:

Candy Pink Ray™, Purple Ray™, Purple Vein Ray™, Red Ray™, Sun Ray™ (Yellow), and White Ray™

Rays have a natural compact habit, superior center branching making for endless possibilities in patio combinations, borders, landscape, hanging baskets, window boxes and pots of all sizes.

Rays are self-cleaning, easy to grow, sun-loving and self-maintaining. Rays are very desirable to the commercial grower and the homeowner.

Culture

Flower Time: All summer.

Crop Planning from a Rooted Cell:

<u>Pot Size</u>	<u>Cuttings per Pot</u>	<u>Finish Time in Weeks</u>
4” Pot (10 cm)	1 c/p	4 to 5 weeks
6” Pot (15 cm)	1 c/p	6 to 7 weeks
6” Pot (15 cm)	3 c/p	5 to 6 weeks
8 to 10” Pot (20-25 cm)	3 to 4 c/p	7 to 9 weeks

Media: Use a sterile, well-drained soil with a pH range of 5.5 to 6.2. Water and let soil dry between irrigations. Too much water, lack of oxygen or poorly drained soils may cause foliar chlorosis similar to yellowing caused by iron deficiency.

Fertilization: Use a balanced feed at 150 to 200 ppm N from a balanced fertilizer on a constant feed bases. Chlorotic foliage frequently results from deficiencies of Fe, Mn, and Mg. To avoid chlorosis, ensure that the fertilizer you use contain these elements.

Temperature: Best grown in moderate temperatures.

Day – 65 to 70F (20 to 22C)

Night – 50 to 60F (10 to 15C)

Photoperiod Response: Day Neutral

Photoperiod Management: Provide long-day extensions to at least 13 hours, or as a 4-hour night interruption before week 14 to promote flowering. Plants normally flower weeks 7-8 from the start of long days.

Light Levels: Plants are best grown under high light. Littletonia will benefit from supplemental lighting under low light conditions. Maintain light levels above 4,000fc during late winter months. This will promote better flowering and promote more compact plants.

Pinching: None required. However, an optional pinch may be given after plants become well established.

Plant Growth Regulators: Petunias in time will grow quickly. Low light levels and warmer temperature can result in stretching. B-nine (Diaminozide) can be effective to control stretching during these times, also for toning plants in finished pots for the best shelf life. Plants can also respond well to Bonzi (Paclobutrazol) and Sumagic (Uniconazole). It is suggested that all PGR rates should be trialed before applications are made to the entire crop to ensure desired results

Insects Pests: Scout for Aphids, Thrip and Whitefly

Soil Disease: Botrytis and Pythium can result from excessive moisture levels. Stressed roots causing yellowing can resemble nutrient deficiency. Maintain moderate soil moisture levels. Preventative root rot fungicides may be applied if desired.

If you want to grow the very best Petunia in the industry with the highest standard of quality we at Danziger Flower Farm strongly recommend the Ray series. All six Ray varieties are now available from your preferred broker both in rooted and unrooted cuttings for the coming 2010 season. Be sure to place your orders now. Demand will often exceed spring supply. For more information about our varieties we encourage you to contact us.