

# URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

## From Seed to Harvest: A beginner's guide to growing Petunias

Petunias are one of the most popular flowers to grow in America, and the flower has a wide variety of uses. Petunias are a popular flower to grow from seed because many garden centers only sell a few different kinds of already sprouted plants. Growing Petunias from seed ensures the gardener can pick from a nearly unlimited variety.

### To plant:

Petunia seeds should be started indoors up to 10 weeks before the last frost. Do not start them outside before the last frost because they are heat-loving flowers that will rot in the garden if started too early. Plant seeds in a seed-starter mix. Sprinkle the seeds on top of the mix and moisten the seeds with a mister. Do not cover the seeds with soil, as they require light to germinate. Take care to not be overgenerous with the seeds, as Petunia seeds are very small and it is easy to overplant and crowd the pot. Cover the seed tray with plastic and place in a bright area out of direct sunlight. Once seeds sprout, remove the plastic and move the seedlings under direct lighting in a cooler area still indoors.

### To grow:

Once seedlings have two sets of true leaves, transplant them into individual pots. Keep them under lights indoors until it's time to transplant them. After the last frost, transplant the seedlings to the garden. Prior to doing so, break up the soil to a depth of 8 inches and mix in compost. Plant three seedlings in a grouping. Once they begin to grow, pinch back the main stem to encourage the flowers to become bushier.



[Ultra Mix Petunia seeds available at ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)

Petunias prefer full sun and a soil with a pH of 6.0 to 7.0. Petunias require frequent watering as their roots are shallow and dry out quickly. By the midsummer, the plants may begin to get leggy. To prevent this, cut each stem back by half.

### To harvest:

Petunias are typically not harvested as cut flowers, but their seeds can be harvested for future plantings. To do so, stop deadheading the blooms and allow seed pods to form. The seed pod is ready when it turns brown and begins to crack. Cut the seed pod off the stem and spread the pods in a single layer on a paper towel. Place in a cool, dry place for a week to allow for the seeds to dry. Break the pods open after a week and place the seeds in an envelope to keep until planting.

### What Petunias craves:

Once seedlings have sprouted but Petunias are still grown inside before the last spring frost, use a water-soluble fertilizer once



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every two weeks. Once seedlings are transplanted, sprinkle a teaspoon of an all-purpose, granular fertilizer around the base of each plant. Petunias are heavy feeders since they are such profuse bloomers, and any fertilizer given during the growing season will encourage more growth. If Petunias are grown in containers, feed them with a granular, slow-acting fertilizer. If grown in the ground, feed them using a fertilizer diluted with water.

## Where to buy Petunia seeds:

Urban Farmer sells different kinds of petunia seeds that are perfect as a hedging flower along landscaping.

Check out our Petunia seed selection on our website at [ufseeds.com!](http://ufseeds.com)



Tidal Wave Silver Petunia seeds available at [ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)



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