

A close-up photograph of two purple petunia flowers with white star-like spots, resembling a night sky. The flowers are surrounded by green foliage. The text 'Night Sky Petunia' and 'Growing Culture' is overlaid in the top left corner.

Night Sky Petunia

Growing Culture

Propagation

- Choose a well-drained medium with an EC of 0.75 to 0.80 mmhos and a pH of 5.5 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 74°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 will prevent iron deficiency and the associated chlorotic foliage which can develop.
- Night Sky trailing petunias can be pinched 18 to 24 days after sticking, when roots are well developed, to promote early branching and improve habit.
- Night Sky trailing petunia rooted cuttings should be ready for transplanting 21 to 28 days after sticking.

Growing On to Finish

Media

Use a well-drained, disease-free, soilless medium with a pH of 5.5 to 6.0.

Temperature

- Nights: 52 to 62°F (11 to 17°C)
- Days: 58 to 75°F (14 to 24°C)
- Higher than recommended temperatures will cause stretch, weak stems and reduced flower size. Higher temperatures can also affect flower color pattern. A high DIF (hot day, cool night) can cause Night Sky flowers to turn white. High day and night temps can cause the flowers to become too purple.

Light

- Keep light intensities at 5,000 to 8,000 f.c. (50,000 to 80,000 Lux).
- Low light levels promote stem stretch and reduced plant quality.
- Night Sky is an early-flowering petunia variety that does not require long days to flower.

Watering

- Plants are susceptible to *Botrytis* – avoid high humidity, constantly saturated media and wet foliage.
- Allow moderate drying between irrigations to prevent disease and promote strong stems and flowers.



Fertilizer

- Night Sky petunias require moderate, constant fertilization.
- Use constant feed with a balanced fertilizer at 150 to 250 ppm N with additional iron as needed based on water quality.
- A full complement of minor elements should be provided to the plant.
- Apply clear water to runoff periodically to prevent problems with soluble salt buildup.

Media pH Management

- Plants must be monitored regularly for early, visual signs of high pH (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 reverse. Irrigation water with high alkalinity can drive the pH up high, which can trigger an iron deficiency.
- The most effective and reliable method to correct and control iron deficiency is to apply a chelated iron product as a soil drench.

Pinching

- Night Sky is a free-branching petunia variety. If desired, or if planting from a stretched liner, pinch plants 10 to 14 days after transplanting to improve basal branching.
- For a large mixed basket or container, a second pinch can be applied, but will delay flowering approximately 2 weeks.

Controlling Growth

- Use high light levels and cool temperatures to control growth.
- Night Sky petunias should not receive any B-Nine applications within 5 weeks of desired finish date due to sensitivity of the color pattern to B-Nine.
- If PGR are required, Night Sky can be drenched with Bonzi (1 to 3.0 ppm) to significantly slow vegetative growth while allowing flowering to continue. Bonzi as a drench can prevent flowers from turning too white.
- 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*.

There are several factors that can affect the color pattern on Night Sky petunia.

- PGR type and application method
- Temperature changes
- High day and night temperatures

Problems	Causes
Plant collapse	Wet media for an extended period (<i>Pythium</i>) <i>Rhizoctonia</i> 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

Night Sky Trailing Petunia Crop Schedule & Uses

(Crop Schedule In Weeks)

	4-In. (10-cm) Pots 1 PPP*	6-In. (15-cm) Pots 1 PPP	10-In. (25-cm) Pots 3-4 PPP	12-14-In. (30- 35-cm) Pots 3-4 PPP
Unrooted cuttings	8-10	10-12	11-13	13-15
Rooted cuttings	5-7	6-9	9-12	10-12

*Plants per pot

PGR

Do not apply any B-Nine spray within 5 weeks of the target finish date as B-Nine will cause excessive white in the flower.

IF PGR is required, the use of a Bonzi drench is recommended.



B-Nine 3000 ppm spray 3X Bonzi drench 3 ppm 1X

Temperature Changes

A high DIF (hot day/cool night) will cause excessive white to form in the flowers.



Day temperatures up to 100°F, night temps down to 45°F Day temperature 75°, night temperature 60°F

High Day and Night Temperatures

When growing in southern Summer conditions of high day and night temperatures and high humidity, Night Sky flowers will become almost solid purple.

When growing Night Sky in cool Spring bedding plant greenhouse environment: Nights: 52 to 62°F (11 to 17°C) Days: 58 to 75°F (14 to 24°C), Night Sky will present a color pattern and plant habit that is ideal. Deviating from this environment and/or the use of B-Nine sprays will contribute to differences in the color pattern of the Night Sky blooms.

Due to the varying color pattern of Night Sky, we do not warrant Night Sky to flower in a consistent color or pattern, and no claims will be accepted.



Day temps up to 100°F, night temps in excess of 75°F



**Find out more about Night Sky petunia
at SelectaNorthAmerica.com**

Ball Seed

ballseed.com/webtrack
Ball Seed: 800 879-BALL
Ball ColorLink®: 800 686-7380

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