

Petunia grandiflora pendula











F1 Explorer



Explorer is bred for use as a groundcover in garden beds. Explorer is weather tolerant and performs well in a wide range of climates. Explorer is an F1 seed product that competes favourably with vegetative Petunias.



- * Spreading and cascading Petunia type, particularly suitable as a ground cover for landscapers
- * Short crop time: Early flowering even under low light conditions
- * Early to flower in the Spring and continues to flower under the short days of Autumn
- * Produces new flowers at axillary nodes, not just the terminal, so provides continuous flowering in the centre of the plant
- * Cost-effective in production
- * Tremendous flower power
- * Recovers very quickly after a rainstorm

	Annual		Bedding Plant
	Bedding + landscaping		Half shade + full shade
	Trailing		9,000-11,000/gram
	20 cm		Pellet
	60 cm		10.5-12 cm

Culture Guide

Plug Culture

- Stage 1** (days 1-7) Sow on a surface of well-prepared compost with a pH of 5.5-6.0. When sowing directly into plugs, use pelleted seed, If using pelleted seed, be sure to apply sufficient moisture at the start to thoroughly melt the pellets. Germinate at 22-24°C. Do not cover the seed, as light is required for maximum emergence.
- Stage 2** (days 8-14) If using a germination chamber, remove trays once emergence begins. Reduce temperature to 18-21°C. Supplemental lighting can be applied for 14 hours per day to induce early flower bud formation. After seedlings emerge, reduce moisture levels and allow the media to dry slightly in between fertilizer applications. Apply 100 ppm N from a well-balanced calcium nitrate-based fertilizer.
- Stage 3** (days 15-28) Supplemental lighting will promote leaf expansion and root development; especially during the darker months of Winter. As most petunias are either facultative or obligate long day plants, it is best to maintain a 12 hour photoperiod to avoid premature bud. Keep moderately wet and allow the media to dry in between watering. Fertilize as needed to maintain an EC level between 0.8 and 1.0 (1:2 slurry) As leaves reach the edge of the plug tray a light application of B-Nine (daminozide) at 0.25%/2,500 ppm will help tone the plants.
- 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. Reduce moisture and hold at 16°C until transplanted.

Pack & Pot Culture

In general Containers should be 10 cm or larger. One plant is sufficient per 10-15 cm pot. Explorer is less sensitive to day length than other petunias of this type. Explorer begins flowering from late March without supplemental lighting.

Media	Use a well-drained and disease-free media with a pH of 5.5 to 6.2 and a moderate fertilizer starter charge.
Temperature	Maintain a minimum night temperature of 13-16°C and a day temperature between 16-20°C for the first 6 weeks after transplanting. After bud formation, the night temperature can be lowered to 10°C.
Fertilizer	Petunia Explorer requires more fertilizer than other types of cascading petunias. For best results, apply 250 ppm N at each watering using a well-balanced fertilizer. Calcium nitrate-based fertilizers help control excessive growth, but excess bicarbonate should be neutralized to avoid raising the pH above 6.3 as petunia is an iron inefficient plant. Plants can be top dressed with a slow-release fertilizer 10 days prior to shipping to enhance consumer satisfaction.
Lighting	Petunias prefer bright light. With high light, plants will be more compact and floriferous. Petunia Explorer is a facultative long day plant and will flower more quickly with day length extension. Provide 54,000-86,000 lux.
Growth regulators	Petunia Explorer is vigorous and usually requires chemical growth regulation to make saleable plants. An application of B-Nine (daminozide) at 0.35-0.5%/3,500-5,000 ppm at day 7 and 14 following transplant is ideal and recommended.
Pests & diseases	Botrytis, Phytophthora, Rhizoctonia, White Fly, Aphids.
Crop schedule	Explorer Petunias will flower in 6-8 weeks following transplant under long days in the Spring and in 4-6 weeks from transplanting during the Summer under long days with high light and a minimum temperature of 18°C.

All information given is intended for general guidance only and is believed to be accurate. Cultural details are based on Northern Hemisphere conditions and Sakata cannot be held responsible for any crop damage related to the information given herein. Application of recommended growth regulators and chemicals are subject to local legislations and manufacturer's label instructions.