Petunia multiflora **Merlin**

The all-rounder! Bred to perform in a variety of climates, Merlin has medium sized diameter flowers with good weather tolerance. Plants are free flowering and retain their compact habit during the entire flowering season. Merlin Choice colours and Choice Mix offer the go-to colours that growers need for perfect programming.

- Multiflora with mid-sized flowers in a beautiful colour range
- Slow to stretch: allows for high density growing
- Easy, uniform and quick in production
- Plant habit remains dwarf and compact throughout the seasn
- Plants recover quickly after rain
- Wide range of colours including Morn and Picotee shades

Annual	Bedding Plant
Bedding + mixed combo	Half shade + full sun
Mounding	9,000-11,000/gram (normal seed)
20 cm	Normal, pellet
20 cm	9-10.5 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 To promote flower bud initiation and compact plants, keep the media on the dry side in between watering.

Media Use a well-drained and disease-free media with a pH of 5.5 to 6.2 and a moderate fertilizer starter charge.

Transplanting Select a pack or use a pot size of 9 or 10.5 cm.

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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	In general, petunias grow vigorously so apply 150-200 ppm N as needed by using a well-balanced fertilizer. Calcium nitrate-based fertilizers will 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. Optimum E.C. level is 1.2-1.5 (1:2 slurry). 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 Merlin is a facultative long day plant and will flower more quickly with day length extension. Provide 54,000-86,000 lux.
Growth regulators	Once the plants begin forming a rosette, B-Nine (daminozide) can be applied at 0.25-0.50%/2,500-5,000 ppm. In general, 1-3 applications may be needed depending on temperature, light level and fertilizer. Dry cultivation will also help to produce compact p
Pests & diseases	Botrytis, Phytophtora, Rhizoctonia, White fly, Aphids.
Crop schedule	Crop time from transplanting to flowering in Spring time: 5-6 weeks. Crop time from transplanting to flowering in Summer time: 4-5 weeks.

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