

Petunias Perform With A Variety of Colors

By BETTY FRANKEL
Special Writer

Everybody has seen pink or purple or white petunias, but have you ever seen a black petunia or one that is canary yellow?

There really are such colors. They were on display, along with over 150 other varieties of petunias, when I visited the Chicago trial garden of the George Ball Seed Co.

This company, which supplies seeds to many of the nurseries that grow the flats and containers that are sold each spring in garden centers, says that petunias are the most popular garden flower. More petunias are sold and grown each year than all the other kinds of flowering plants put together.

These seeds, incidentally, are worth more than their weight in gold. One pound of petunia seeds can cost up to \$18,000.00. But it's a lot of petunias. The seeds are fine as dust.

Petunias have earned their popularity because they really perform. These annuals bloom and bloom all summer long with a minimum of effort on the part of the gardener.

Petunias can be used as a little accent, or for a big splash of color. Either way they are effective. They can be planted in front of shrubbery, tucked in among the other flowers in the garden, or grown in beds, in plant boxes or window boxes, in pots or in hanging baskets. They can be grown in wire cages or tucked into the sides of a tall mesh cylinder so they form a petunia totem pole. There seems to be no limit to the way they can be grown. Just use your imagination.

Protect Cut Flowers By Proper Treatment

EAST LANSING Simple handling steps can ensure a longer life for your cut flowers, says Michigan State University horticulturist.

Before cutting, choose flowers that aren't fully opened. They will have a longer life span than those already blooming. Cut flowers early in the morning or late in the afternoon because their stems are full of water. The stems should be cut at a slant with a sharp knife or shears.

All broken and bruised parts of the stem should be removed along with the foliage from the lower one-third to one-half of the stem.

Immediately after cutting, place the flowers in warm water (110 degrees F.) for about two hours. After the two hour period, you can arrange the flowers.

Selecting a clean and suitable container for your cut flowers will prevent the

growth of bacteria. When bacteria multiplies, it prevents the water from going up the stem, causing the flowers to wilt.

You can obtain a flower preservative from your florist that can prevent bacterial and fungicide growth.

Flowers enjoy a cool spot at night. And during the day, avoid placing the arrangement near drafts, radiators, direct sun or electric lights because it speeds up the transpiration process.

Rescue measures are possible for flowers that begin to wilt prematurely. Begin by making a slanting cut an inch from the end of the stem, place the flowers in very hot water for a few minutes and then into very cold water for a few minutes.

This first aid treatment pushes any air bubbles out of the stem and the cold water perks up the flowers. But it won't save flowers that have wilted for several hours.

are "All-America" selections. "El Toro" is a really bright red grandiflora petunia, and "Capri" comes nearest of all grandiflora petunias to being a true blue color. Capri shares honors with Purple Plum in being the most pollution tolerant petunia.

"Cherry Blossom," one of my favorites, has cherry red petals that shade to pure white in the center. It is a new introduction. Sunburst is the name of the yellow petunia. The flowers are not especially large, but they are a lovely clear shade of yellow that deepens a bit toward the center of the flower. The edges of the petals are attractively fringed. This petunia is a good mixer, combining well with any of the blue tones or with the coral shades.

The "grandifloras" are the showiest and most versatile of all petunias. These large flowered beauties are excellent for bedding, boxes or bouquets. In addition to performing well in the garden, they make good cut flowers.

Included in this group are such award winning favorites as "Apple Blossom," which has dainty pink flowers shading into a deeper tone; "Ballerina," a glowing salmon color which doesn't show any signs of fading in full sun; "Maytime," a free flowering soft salmon pink; and "Prima Donna," a bright rose pink. All of these

A group of grandiflora petunias known as "Magic" are good for bedding. The plants are bushy and compact and flower freely. Some have plain edges and others are lightly frilled.

"Pink Magic" which is an intense fluorescent looking shade of pink is one of the most widely planted of all petunias. It has been adopted as a trademark by a major oil company and Pink Magic petunias have been planted in front of most gas stations. It is a shade you can't overlook.

The other petunias in this group all seem to be rather high intensity hues, too. "Black Magic" has flowers that at first glance look black, but on closer inspection they turn out to be a very dark violet-blue. They are not the most beautiful petunias I've seen, but are

definitely unusual and a "conversation piece."

Doubles have been bred so there is a full round pom-pom of fringed or ruffled petals. Although these large flowered doubles are showy, they don't bloom as profusely as other petunias.

However, a group known as "tarts," which have small double flowers, are vigorous and prolific and the plants are covered with the puffy blooms. There is a "cherry tart," an "apple tart," a "grape tart" and a few other fruit flavors that are spritely and appealing.

The Cascade petunias, which are one of the newest developments in petunias in recent years, were displayed at the Ball gardens in hanging baskets. This is a type of petunia that has been developed since hanging baskets became so popular - or per-

haps these lovely trailing petunias have helped make the hanging baskets popular. A few small plants tucked into a container soon grow so they spill out over the container, almost completely hiding it.

There are seven varieties in this group. "White Cascade" has flowers that are five inches in diameter with slightly ruffled edges. "Chiffon Cascade" is truly luscious. The large flowers are a clear, pale pink that is lively but soft and delicate. They definitely are a pretty as a party dress. Other colors in this group include red, bright pink, coral, blue, and purple.

As you can see there is no need to settle year after year for the same old thing in petunias. Look around at what your friends and neighbors are growing and at the petunias being grown in public

parks and in front of commercial buildings. You may get some good ideas for new varieties to grow and may get some ideas for fresh new ways to display them.

Petunias perform best when they are grown in full sun, but they will tolerate a little shade. They prefer light well-drained soil. Give them an application of quick-acting liquid fertilizer a few times ever.

during the growing season and water during dry spells. If your petunias look lank and leggy in mid-summer, cut them back part way. This shearing can be done with a hedge clippers or other shears.

New compact growth will be produced, and in a couple of weeks your petunias will be blooming better than ever.

Blistering Caused By Moisture

Barns don't blister. Paint on house siding sometimes does because of moisture trapped behind it. Don't blame the siding. Let the vapor out by inserting little metal vents, between studs and lath on the wall.

Or drive small wedges under the lower edge of the siding. This will help inside moisture evaporate out, but won't let the rain in.

PINE CASHWAY

QUALIFIED LUMBER SALESMEN TO SERVE YOU
FULL LINE LUMBER DEALER

AUGUST MONEY SAVERS

THE PRICE AND WEATHER ARE BOTH RIGHT IN AUGUST

ALUMINUM GUTTER

BAKED ENAMEL 5" K
\$2.99 EA.
10' Gutter
\$2.29 EA.
10' Downspout
ALL ACCESSORIES IN STOCK

CEMENT MIX

A THOUSAND USES AROUND EVERY HOUSE. SIMPLY ADD WATER - MIX & IT'S READY.
90 lb. BAG
\$1.39

DRYWALL

4x8x3/8 4x8x1/2
\$1.69 C & C \$1.95

PRE-HUNG DOORS

• ELIMINATE HOURS OF LABOR BY USING EASY TO INSTALL PRE-HUNG DOORS
INCLUDES ALL HARDWARE AND TRIM 2 SIDES
From \$24.95 C/C

LAUAN/UNDERLAYMENT PLYWOOD

4x8x1/4
\$4.49 EA.
(SOLID CORE) CASH & CARRY

EXTERIOR FIR PANELS

ROUGH SAWN REVERSE BOARD & BATTEN
EXTERIOR GLUE 12" O.C.
4x8x6
\$12.75 REG. \$17.75

FIBERGLASS PANELS

BUILD YOUR OWN CARPORT OR COVER YOUR PATIO
26"x129" 3.69
26"x144" 4.69
26"x96" 2.69

INSTANT REDWOOD FENCING

Quality California redwood fence for yard or patio.
REDI-WEAVE
WATER REPELLENT TREATED HORIZONTAL PANELS
• 4x8 SECTION \$12.75 EA. C/C
• 5x8 SECTION \$14.75 EA. C/C
• 6x8 SECTION \$15.75 EA. C/C

VANITIES

Add a luxurious look to your bathroom, and plenty of extra storage space.
(EC 22 NOT SHOWN)
REG. \$49.95 SALE \$44.44
MANY OTHER STYLES ON DISPLAY

WHITE PINE SHORTS

4' 5' 6' 7' 8'
1x4 .55 .68 .82 .96 1.09
1x6 .82 1.03 1.23 1.44 1.64
1x8 1.09 1.37 1.64 1.91 2.19
1x10 1.37 1.71 2.05 2.39 2.73
1x12 1.64 2.05 2.46 2.87 3.28
EXCELLENT GRADE • SMOOTH TRIMMED
C/C

PARTICLE BOARD

PERFECT FOR TRAIN-BOARD, SUBFLOOR, CABINETS, ETC.
4x8x1/2 \$3.89
4x8x1/2 \$4.19
4x8x1/2 \$4.55
4x8x1/2 \$4.65

ALUMINUM SIDING

NEVER RUSTS EASILY APPLIED NO PAINTING FULLY GUARANTEED
\$23.25 C/C 100 Sq. Ft. w/o Backer
\$27.25 100 Sq. Ft. with Insulated Backer

"WAGON PLANK" PANELS BACK IN STOCK

4x8x1/4
\$4.97
While They Last • Imperfections for the rustic look C/C

PLANT of the WEEK

BUTTERFLY BUSH

Butterfly Bush Blooms From June until Frost

Magnificent Red or Purple Spike Like Bloom Attracts Butterflies and Hummingbirds

2 for \$2.95 Reg. \$2.95 each

AMHERST YEW \$3.50 Reg. \$8.50

OPEN SUNDAY 10 A.M. TO 4 P.M. - OPEN THURS. & FRI. EVENINGS 'TIL 8 P.M.

West Side Yard
12222 INKSTER RD. 937-9111

Lincoln Park
3255 FORT ST. 386-5177