



Vegetative Petunia Production - Rick Yates, Technical Services Manager- Rev. 7/09

- 300-350 PPM constant feed (see chart below for tips on using controlled release fertilizer), pH 5.3-5.8, elevated iron requirement.
- 65° nights to establish liners. Growing on at 65° nights provide faster crop times and better total energy efficiency when compared to cooler temps. Vegetative petunias can be cooled into the 40's for finishing, but lower night temperatures substantially increase crop time and botrytis potential. Day temperatures should be about 5° above night temperatures.
- Apply a foliar spray of 500 ppm Florel (1.6 fl oz per gal) as soon as the petunias are established. This encourages branching and reduces internode elongation. Do not use Florel on enhanced liners that have been lit to initiate flowers as Florel will undo this effect.
- Apply a 4 ppm paclobutrazol (Exs- Bonzi/Paclo) drench when plants are approaching the edge of the container. Certain bi-colored bloom varieties show an increased sensitivity to paclobutrazol and should receive a 2ppm drench. (Rate chart at the end of this bulletin) Some growers prefer a 20ppm Sumagic foliar spray.
- Finishing times for non-programmed liners: Temperature dependent, shortest crop times assume 62-65° nights. 1 per 4" pot finish in 4-6 weeks, 3 per 10" HB or 4 per 12" HB finish in 5-8 weeks. Most vegetative petunias bloom faster under long days.
- Aerial *Rhizoctonia*, *Thielaviopsis*, *Phytophthora*, aphids, budworms, thrips are the primary pests. A preventative fungicide drench for Thielaviopsis is recommended at time of planting and again 3 weeks later. Consult the Griffin Insecticide and Fungicide Options bulletin for details on pest control.

Vegetative petunias have higher feed requirements than most other basket material. Growers who traditionally fertilize their baskets at 200 ppm may find it difficult to provide these crops with adequate fertilizer. A potential remedy is to supplement these heavy feeders with slow release so they do not need to set up a separate feeding program just for these items. The following rates are for Osmocote® 15-9-12 (5-6 month), or Nutricote® 13-13-13 (100 day).

| Crop | 10" hb w/200ppm CLF | 10" hb no liquid feed | 12" hb w/200ppm CLF | 12" hb no liquid feed |
|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Vegetative Petunias | 2 TBLS | 3 TBLS | 3 TBLS & 1 teas | 5 TBLS |

| ppm Bonzi/Paclo drench | 1:100 injector | Hozon using 5 gal bucket | 5 gal bucket for hand dipping |
|------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2 | 6.66 oz per gal | 5.0 oz per 5 gallons | 2 tsp per 5 gallons |
| 4 | 13.3 oz per gal | 10.0 oz per 5 gallons | 4 tsp per 5 gallons |

Bonzi/Paclo Drench Volume:

| Pot size | ~ oz per pot |
|----------|--------------|
| 4-4.5" | 2-3 |
| 6" | 4 |
| 8"hb | 10 |
| 10"hb | 15 |
| 12" hb | 22 |

