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How to Grow Million Bells: Your Guide to Trailing Petunias



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Planting, Growing, and Caring for Million Bells

By [Jennifer Keating](#)

Last Updated: August 28, 2024



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Million Bells, a vibrant and prolific flower-
ing plant, is a popular choice for hanging

1. Planting and Caring for Million Bells

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any outdoor space. Learn how to grow Million Bells. With proper care, this plant will reward you with nonstop blooms throughout the growing season.

About Million Bells

Ring out! Commonly referred to by its trademarked name ‘Million Bells’ and also sometimes known as “mini petunia” for its abundance of 1-inch-wide blooms and resemblance to that annual, trailing petunia belongs to the *Calibrachoa*— not Petunia—genus. If given the attention it needs, this plant will pour forth hundreds of colorful flowers on stems up to 30 inches long from spring to first frost. The colors of its blooms range from blue, bronze, magenta, pink, and red to violet, white, and yellow. The plant is well suited for hanging baskets and containers.

Nate Dalman of the West Central Research and Outreach Center says, “They are a fairly new ornamental, introduced in the 1990s, and rapidly gained

Million Bells is a tender perennial that is winter-hardy in Zones 9 to 11 and treated as an annual elsewhere.

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Photo: ElenaNoeva

Read Next

- [How to Grow Trailing Lobelia: The Complete Lobelia Flower Guide](#)

- [How to Grow Ranunculus: The Complete Guide](#)

PLANTING

Million Bells are hybrid plants that produce few to no seeds. Purchasing plants or growing cuttings vegetatively (from an existing plant, unless such propagation is prohibited by trademark law) is recommended. Take a 6-inch cutting that is flower-free and remove the leaves from the bottom half. Dip the cut end in rooting hormone and plant in potting mix. Provide bright light and warm temperatures (about 70°F) and keep the soil consistently moist; roots should develop in 2 to 4 weeks.

When planting purchased plants or transplanting cuttings, provide potting mix amended with [compost](#) and/or aged manure and [peat moss \(if desired\)](#). If using potting mix that does not contain fertilizer, add in a slow-release formula at the time of planting. A pH of from 5.0 to

Move outdoors when the threat of frost has passed.

GROWING

Million Bells require full sun (at least 6 hours per day); while they tolerate light shade, their production diminishes as shade increases.

Water regularly to keep the soil moist but not soggy. Trailing petunia is somewhat drought-tolerant but check it often in hot, dry weather by pushing a finger 1 inch into the soil: If it is dry, water enough to be damp to moist. Between waterings, allow the soil to dry out. Wilting can be a sign of root rot, caused by overwatering.

Fertilize every 2 weeks with a balanced product.

Pinch back tips to encourage branching and flowers. Deadheading is not necessary, as Million Bells cleans itself. In mid-season, if desired, encourage new

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Photo: mcajan

Types

Numerous collections and series of trademarked trailing petunias have been produced, including the ones listed below.

When purchasing, always be sure that you have the “trailing” type.

- C. Cabaret series ‘Good Night Kiss’:
pink-purple flowers
- C. Cruze series ‘White Pink Eye’: white
flowers with pink throats
- C. Kabloom series ‘Denim’:
blue flowers
- C. MiniFamous Neo series ‘Vampire’:
red flowers
- C. Superbells series ‘Lemon Slice’:
white-and-yellow pinwheel flowers

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PESTS/DISEASES

Pests: [aphids](#), [spider mites](#).

WIT AND WISDOM

- Million Bells attracts butterflies and hummingbirds. [See more flowers that hummingbirds love.](#)
- Its foliage is naturally slightly sticky to the touch.

FLOWERS

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jennifer Keating



Jennifer is the Digital Editor at The Old Farmer's Almanac. She is an active equestrian and spends much of her free time at the barn. When she's not riding, she loves caring for her collection of house plants, baking, and playing in her gardens. [Read More from Jennifer Keating](#)

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