

Calibrachoa interspecific hybrids - New crop paper

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2012

Series: New Floricultural Crops: Formulation of Production Schedules for Wild, Non-domesticated Species

Part of the requirements for
Horticultural Science 5051: Plant Production II
University of Minnesota

Calibrachoa

Taxonomy

Genus: *Calibrachoa*

Family: Solanaceae

24 species (Reis, 2002)

Common names: million bells, mini petunia, and trailing petunia.

Synonym: petunia

Geographic Distribution

Most *Calibrachoa* are hybrids so not native to anywhere but parents are native to South America (Arnold, 2005; Reis, 2002)

Native Habitat

No specific area other than South America were found

Taxonomic Description

Hardiness: Zone 9-11 (Superbells, 2010)

Foliage: evergreen to semi-evergreen

Alternate, subopposite, or opposite

Simple (Arnold, 2005)

Flower: Bell or trumpet shaped

¾"-1" long and wide (Arnold, 2005)

Fruit: Small achenes not ornamental

Stem: Stiff, rounded

Light green (Arnold, 2005)

Size: Height: 6-10"

Width: 18-24" (Arnold, 2005)

Name and Description of Varieties/Cultivars on the Market

Superbells, Million bells

Mounded, trailing, dense

Heat and drought tolerant

Propagation Method

Much of the propagation of *Calibrachoa* is done with vegetative cuttings.

There are many theories on the best way to get the cuttings to root.

Well drained media all the way to Rockwool

High humidity levels is something that is a must

Root between 10 days and 6 weeks

Product Specifications

Mounded-trailing, long duration of flowers, dense foliage (Arnold, 2005)

Market Niche

Spring sales

Holidays with color specific themes

Anticipated Cultural Requirements

Calibrachoa is grown as an annual except in zones 9-11 it is perennial.

Full sun to part shade (Shaded plants may live longer in the summer)

Heavy feeders regular fertilizer applications required for continuous flowering

Acidic soil

Complete Production Schedule (from seed or cuttings)

Cuttings

Apply 2500-3000ppm IBM in talc

Stick cuttings in well drained media in 84 plug tray

10 days to 6 weeks to root

Transplant into 4 inch pots with LC8

Fertilize 125 ppm N CLF 15-5-15 Cal-Mag

Grow for 6-8 weeks

Sell it yo!

Needs Assessment for Genetic Improvement

Mother crop 20060911X14

Dead in greenhouse

Look for longer lasting crop

Mother Crop 20060911X15

Possibly find a more consistent rooting crop

Both

Find a more dense plant these were both quite open and airy

Literature Cited

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Superbells - *Calibrachoa* hybrid. 2010.

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