

Make A Petunia Tree

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Here are the materials you will need:

2-inch metal pipe, 8 feet long.

½-inch black pipe cut into the following lengths: 7 pipes, each 21 inches long; 5 pipes, each 12½ inches long; 3 pipes, each 7¾ inches long.

1/2 x 1/8-inch metal (for top holder).

½-inch metal to make the 15 "hoop" holders for the ends of each pipe.

16 pots of cascading petunias . . . each pot to be approximately 12-inch (top diameter) planted with 6 plants (one in center, 5 around the edge).

Step one: Construct your frame, welding your bracket pipes as indicated. Be sure to stagger each level of pipes as much as possible, so the pots will not hang directly above one another.

Be sure the "hoops" at the end of each pipe are welded securely . . . 12-inch pots of petunias are heavy. The first level of 7 brackets should be 35 inches above ground level; this may seem high, but don't lower these brackets, as your cascading petunias will hang to within 8 inches of the ground.

Step two: Place your 16 pots of cascading petunias into the holder "hoops", and watch your petunias develop into a traffic-stopping "tree" of color. Water as needed, using either a trickle irrigation system or watering by hand. Fertilize with a water soluble fertilizer as needed (similar to any container plant). Pinch plants several times to produce a well-branched, full-blossom tree.

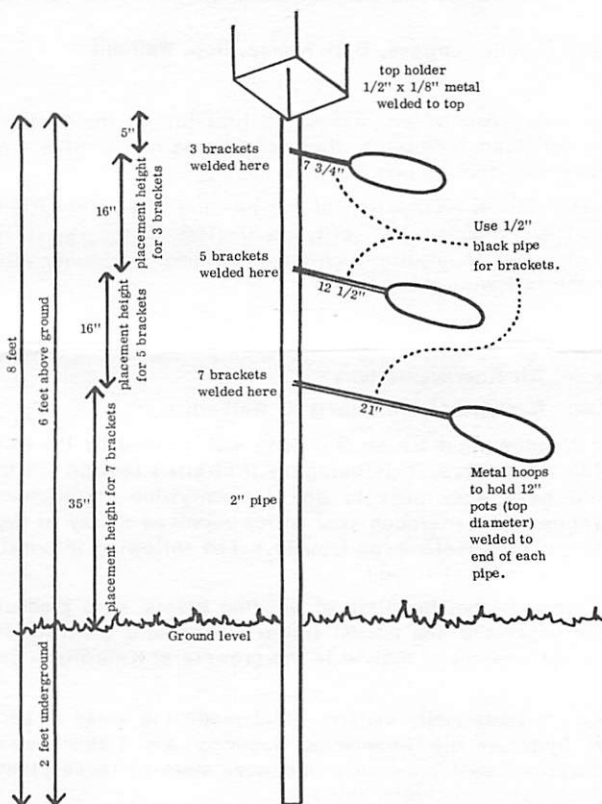
Remember . . . select a sunny location for your petunia tree!

Another way to create a petunia tree: construct a wooden "teepee" frame, anchor it securely, and cover with a "cone" of chicken wire filled with sphagnum moss. Use small individual pots of cascading petunias to fill in the tree.



Ninety-six cascading petunias and metal pipe combine to create this traffic-stopping garden accent.

PETUNIA TREE BLUEPRINT



This diagram illustrates one method of constructing a petunia tree. Another way is to use wood and chicken wire.