

volatile ones.

10. Starting Seedlings under Artificial Light - Petunia

Lighting petunias -- Most of us are aware that petunias run up to one single stem and flower. This condition can be altered by proper manipulation of light. Short days, less than 12 hours of daylight, cause branching of the petunia. Long days of 12 hours or more of light produce flowering.

During January and February the nights should be short enough to induce the branching in the petunia seedling. If petunia seedlings are started after March 1, they should be shaded (apply shade at 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.) for 40 days and then expose to the long day prevalent after March 1.

WARNING! Try this out on a small scale, for the research has not been out too long and we have had no first-hand experience with it. If you need help, call upon your county agent and/or specialist.

For more details about precision growing of petunia, we suggest that you contact us at Waltham or that you read C. Victor Ball's notes in the December issue 1962 of GROWER TALKS, Vol. 26, #8.