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Flower named after Dr Mahathir

THE bell-shaped and bright flowers of petunias have always been enchanting but their fragility makes one think twice about growing them.

However, a nursery owner in Ipoh has created a sturdier variety by cross-breeding imported petunias with a local variant.

"I named it 'Mahathir flowers' (after Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) as the plant is sturdier and can withstand different environments," said 19-year-old Hooi Suk Chang (picture).

She said the temperate plants normally can't stand direct sunlight and need extra care.