

Impatiens

Seed Raised Impatiens

Plant type: Tender annual
Uses: Outdoor containers, hanging baskets, garden and patio pot plant
Plant height: 20 – 45cm

Sowing: January - May (February – March for New Guinea Divine) for pack sales and Summer bedding.
24°C Cover with an average layer of medium Vermiculite.
Germination 2 - 3 weeks.
Light is needed for the first stages of germination.

Approximate crop timing (mid season)

Single types: DeZire™

Sowing to transplanting	3 weeks
Sowing to flowering	10 weeks
Seedling to flowering	6 weeks
Ball 350 to flowering	5 weeks
Ball 230 to flowering	4 - 5 weeks
Ball 142 to flowering	4-5 weeks

Semi Double/Double types: Athena

Sowing to flowering	12 weeks
Ball 350 to flowering	6 – 7 weeks

New Guinea types: Divine™

Sowing to flowering	13 – 14 weeks
Ball 230 to flowering	7 – 8 weeks
Ball 104 to flowering	6 – 7 weeks

Growing on:

Temperature Initially day 24°C with a minimum night of 17°C.
After establishment night temperature can be lowered to 17 – 18°C.
New Guinea types require warmer growing on temperatures of 20 - 25°C before transplanting, then 19 – 21°C with a minimum night of 17°C.

pH 6.0 - 6.5

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Culture Information

Feeding	Balanced NPK feed at weekly intervals after flower bud initiation. Plants are sensitive to high EC concentration levels about 1.5m/s.
Growth Regulation	Particularly for pack production. Responds to Daminozide at 3.0 - 3.5 g/litre, stop before flower buds appear. Growth regulation not usually necessary on New Guinea Divine™.
Packs and Pot sizes	6 packs, 9cm pots upwards to 1litre for mid-Summer booster sales. New Guinea Divine™ best suited for premium packs and 10.5-13cm pots.
Planting out Spacing	15 – 20 cm
Advice	Strict hygiene should be maintained at sowing and throughout the production. Grow on a dry compost regime with as much light as possible. Maintain temperature levels and avoid leaving plants wet late in the day to prevent growth tip abortion. Plants require good light conditions but New Guineas will need shading in bright sun.
Common Diseases	Rhizoctonia, Pythium - damping off disease. Botrytis Downy Mildew

Cutting Raised New Guinea Impatiens

Approximate crop timing (mid-season)

Ball 84 to flowering 8 – 10 weeks

Growing on:

Temperature Initially 18°C minimum night dropping to 16°C after establishment and 22°C day

pH 5.8 - 6.2

Feeding A balanced fertiliser at 150ppm nitrogen after establishment, increasing potash at flowering.
Plants are very sensitive to high EC levels.
Incorporating a slow release long term granular fertiliser in the compost is popular for this crop.

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Culture Information

Growth regulation	Not necessary
Pot size	10 – 11cm pots through to large containers. Intermediate potting on may be required.
Advice	Good hygiene is essential. Plants require high light levels, which increases flowering. Watering should not be at saturation but plants should not be allowed to wilt. Space plants once the foliage touches.
Common diseases	Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus (TSWV) and Impatiens Necrotic Wilt Virus (INWV) carried by Thrip causing spotting and distortion. Pythium, Phytophthora, Rhizoctonia root rots. A regular fungicide would be recommended.
Common Pests	Mites - biological control is useful since the crop is very sensitive to certain chemicals.

Cutting Raised Interspecific Hybrid Impatiens

Cultural advice is as for New Guinea types except that the interspecific types should not be allowed to dry out and generally have a higher water requirement.

Impatiens Downy Mildew

Please refer to the Ball Colegrave website;

<http://www.ballcolegrave.co.uk/Growers/ImpatiensDownyMildew.aspx> for the latest up to date advice on this disease.

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