

Impatiens SunPatiens®

- **Exceptional outdoor performance**
- **Unaffected by Downy Mildew**
- **Tough – Thrives in almost all conditions**
- **Easy to grow – robust, quick to flower, can be cool grown**
- **Virtually maintenance free**
- **Continuous flower until first frosts**
- **Height 40-60cm, spread 40-50cm (vigorous)**
- **Height 25-50cm, spread 25-40cm (compact)**

PRODUCTION:

Media

- Transplant in a well aerated medium. Optimum pH 5.8-6.3 and starting with an EC at 0.75 ms.

Temperature

- SunPatiens can be grown across a wide range of temperatures from 13-28°C.
- Lower temperatures will help keep plants compact and also increase flower size.
- When plants establish it is recommended to grow SunPatiens at a day temperature of 14-15°C. This will benefit a compact plant habit and flower quality, including the flower size.

Light

- SunPatiens is best grown under full light and should never be grown under shade, also avoid growing below hanging basket lines as lower light levels will reduce the number of flowers and increase internode stretch.

Watering

- Allow plants to dry slightly between watering's in the first half of the crop cycle. Do not allow the plants to wilt during this period, as finished quality will be reduced.
- As the crop matures and begins to bud up and flower, avoid water stress entirely and remember that the crop will need more frequent irrigation.
- Excessive water stress will cause leaf edge damage as well as bud and flower drop.

Feeding

- Allow the media to dry down a little between irrigations. Keeping plants on the dry side will contribute to compact and strong plant habits.
- Feed with a complete balanced fertilizer at 100-150 ppm nitrogen (calcium nitrate-based) at constant liquid feed.
- While SunPatiens can tolerate higher fertiliser rates than traditional NGI, they do not need high amount of fertilizer. Monitor EC level, ideal is 0.8 to 1.0

Pot size

Vigorous types: 1.5 – 3 litre pots

Compact types: 1 – 2 litre pots

Crop time

- Production time for SunPatiens is dependable on the culture and temperature regime chosen.
- Expect a production time of 12-13 weeks when plants are grown at 14-15°C.
- Space plants when foliage begin to touch neighbouring plants.
- Do not delay spacing as SunPatiens are vigorous growers and delay will easily result in stretched plants with thin stems.

Pinching

- Naturally self-branching. Do not require pinching.

Controlling growth

- With ideal culture controls (high light, water stress, low temperature and spacing on time), SunPatiens can be grown without using PGRs.
- Allow the young plants to dry down somewhat between irrigations. If needed, SunPatiens do respond to Daminozide.

Common problems

Insects: Thrips, Mites, Aphids.

Diseases: Impatiens Necrotic Spot Virus (INSV), Botrytis

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Culture Information

PLANTING OUT:

Spacing

Vigorous types: 30-40cm

Compact types: 25-30cm apart

Fertiliser requirements

SunPatiens® are very light feeders and excessive fertilizer may result in reduced flowering and weak stems. If applying liquid fertilizers, use a nitrate based fertilizer at 75 to 100 ppm once every 3 to 4 weeks.

Another option is to apply a well-balanced slow release fertilizer at ½ the typical rate. This works best when the granules are incorporated into the soil; especially on sloped areas where heavy rains are frequent.

Watering requirements

SunPatiens® are vigorous plants with strong root systems. Maintaining adequate soil moisture during the first 2 weeks after transplanting is critical to get roots established and provide the substance to withstand climatic stress.

Problems	Causes
Plants collapse	Stem canker (<i>Botrytis</i>) Plants grown in saturated soil for extended period of time (<i>Pythium</i>)
Excessive vegetative growth, lack of flowers	Over fertilisation under low light conditions Low light and over watering; wet media Excess or late PGR application
Foliage necrosis, leaf spot	Drying out between watering's Excess minor nutrient levels in media
Poor branching, thin plants	Low fertilisation in early stages of crop

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