



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

Impatiens x New Guinea Hybrids¹

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Introduction

This easily-grown annual distinguishes itself from the common garden *Impatiens* by its brilliantly-marked foliage and ability to tolerate greater amounts of sun once it is well-established for several weeks in the landscape (Fig. 1). Available in upright, rounded or flatter, spreading forms, from 8 inches to 2 feet in height, 'New Guinea' *Impatiens* have very large leaves, often variegated with red or yellow, and large, single flowers available in shades of lavender, purple, pink, red, orange, or white.

General Information

Scientific name: *Impatiens x New Guinea Hybrids*

Pronunciation: im-PAY-shenz

Common name(s): New Guinea *Impatiens*

Family: *Balsaminaceae*

Plant type: annual

USDA hardiness zones: all zones (Fig. 2)

Planting month for zone 7: Jun; Jul; Aug

Planting month for zone 8: Jun; Jul

Planting month for zone 9: Apr; Sep; Oct; Nov

Planting month for zone 10 and 11: Feb; Mar; Apr; Oct; Nov; Dec

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: edging; mass planting; container or above-ground planter; attracts butterflies

Availability: generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

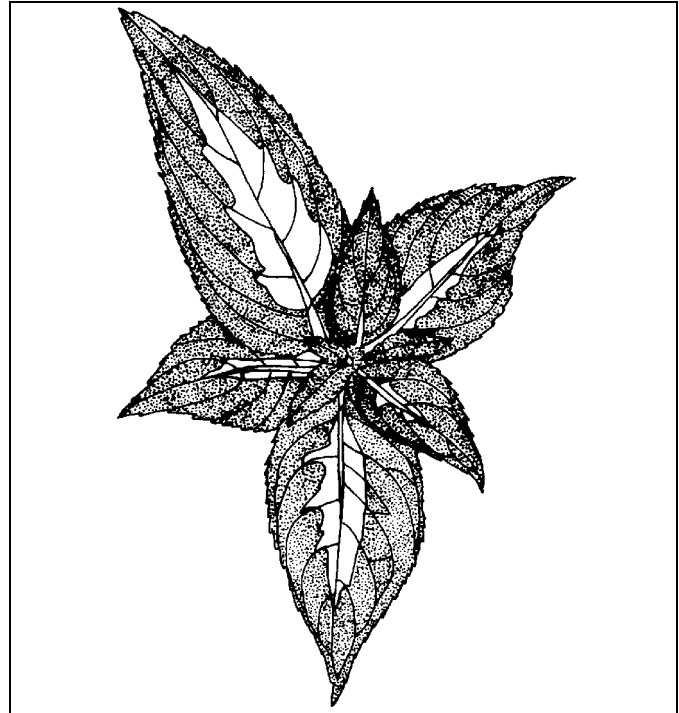


Figure 1. New Guinea *Impatiens*.

Description

Height: 1 to 2 feet

Spread: 1 to 2 feet

Plant habit: round

Plant density: dense

Growth rate: fast

Texture: medium

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Foliage

- Leaf arrangement:** alternate
- Leaf type:** simple
- Leaf margin:** serrate
- Leaf shape:** ovate
- Leaf venation:** not applicable
- Leaf type and persistence:** not applicable
- Leaf blade length:** 4 to 8 inches
- Leaf color:** purple or red
- Fall color:** not applicable
- Fall characteristic:** not applicable

Flower

- Flower color:** white; red; pink; lavender; orange; purple
- Flower characteristic:** showy

Fruit

- Fruit shape:** no fruit
- Fruit length:** no fruit
- Fruit cover:** no fruit
- Fruit color:** not applicable
- Fruit characteristic:** inconspicuous and not showy

Trunk and Branches

- Trunk/bark/branches:** not applicable
- Current year stem/twig color:** reddish
- Current year stem/twig thickness:** thick

Culture

- Light requirement:** plant grows in part shade/part sun
- Soil tolerances:** acidic; sand; clay; loam
- Drought tolerance:**
- Soil salt tolerances:** unknown
- Plant spacing:** 12 to 18 inches

Other

- Roots:** not applicable
- Winter interest:** not applicable
- Outstanding plant:** not particularly outstanding
- Invasive potential:** not known to be invasive
- Pest resistance:** long-term health usually not affected by pests

Use and Management

Performing best in light shade but tolerant of nearly full sun during the winter in south Florida, 'New Guinea' Impatiens are ideal for edgings, borders, or mass plantings. Plants should receive regular waterings and fertilizations. Daily irrigation is needed in Florida in warm weather. Sunny locations are suitable for planting in the summer only in cool climates. Plants in Florida usually stop flowering in the summer, even when located in the shade. They make a nice spring and fall color show in north and central Florida, and grow well all winter long in south Florida.

Space plants about 18 to 24 inches apart for mass plantings. A mass or group of plants will form a 'mound' of color which is higher in the middle and low and rounded along the edge of the grouping. Plant no closer than 12 inches from a walk or driveway to allow the plant to spread out. One plant will normally fill a small container in 8 to 10-weeks forming a large, symmetrical round head.

Although previously difficult to grow from seed, recent introductions have produced a fertile seed mixture. 'New Guinea Spectra Hybrids' offer a multitude of color forms and leaf variegations. 'Sweet Sue', with bronzed foliage and bright orange, 2 to 3-inch flowers, can also be grown from seed. 'Spectra' series and 'Tango' are also seed propagated.

Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern.