

Cultural Details: **New Guinea Impatiens**

Introduction

Traditionally raised from cuttings, New Guinea Impatiens may now be raised easily from seed. This offers several advantages, including production cost savings, and the lowered risk of bringing pest and disease onto the nursery.

F1 hybrids such as Java offer high germination and vigour, a good range of leaf and flower colours, and a plant habit suitable for pot and bedding plant use. The attractive foliage also works well in mixed containers.

Sow: December-January at approx. 22-25°C. Cover very lightly with vermiculite to maintain humidity, keep moist, do not exclude light. The most controllable way to raise is into module trays, so that roots are not damaged when potting on. Germination will be visible after around 7 days. Grow on at 18-20°C and water carefully as roots will be damaged by overwatering. Supplementary lighting, especially in the early stages will hasten seedlings growth. Begin feeding after 3-4 weeks with moderate strength liquid feed.

Pot on: After about 6-8 weeks (depending on size of young plant) into 10cm. pots (for pot sales) or 4-packs (for bedding plant sales). Use slow release fertilizer, or a moderate strength liquid feed programme, beginning 2 weeks after potting. Maintain temperatures around 16°C if possible to grow on. Pinching and growth regulators are not required.

Pest & Diseases

Maintain good air flow through the crop to minimize the risk of botrytis. Use sticky traps to monitor for the presence of insects, such as whitefly, thrips and aphids, and treat crop accordingly. Western Flower Thrips must be carefully controlled, especially as they spread Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus, which can cause severe damage (mottled/distorted new growth).

Information provided for guidance only, as cultural practices and climatic circumstances vary.