

Portland Nursery

Know before you grow...

Impatiens Downy Mildew

Our beloved bedding Impatiens have a new threat in the Pacific Northwest: Impatiens Downy Mildew is a deadly fungal disease which thrives in moist, humid conditions. It specifically infects *Impatiens walleriana* and hybrids, bedding Impatiens (6 pack style), Rosebud Impatiens, Butterfly and Fusion Impatiens.



Symptoms

Early signs include:

- Light green yellowing or stippling of leaves
- Leaf edges curl down
- Faint gray streaks on upper leaf surface
- White cotton-like patches on undersides of leaves

Advanced signs include:

- Stunted plants
- Leaf and flower drop, leaving bare stems (which occurs rapidly)
- Infected stems collapse in cool wet conditions

Control

The spores of this disease spread by wind and water (rain and overhead irrigation). One source says the spores can spread hundreds of miles on the wind! Also if infected stems are left to rot on the soil the *spores can persist in the soil for two to three years*. Once you have the disease there is no control.

DO NOT COMPOST INFECTED PLANTS! Please put them in a plastic bag as close to the area they were growing in as possible, and put them in the garbage.

DO NOT PLANT MORE IMPATIENS IN THE INFECTED AREA. They will die. It is best to not plant *Impatiens walleriana* in an infected area for at least three years.

Growers can prevent this disease with clean facilities, regular monitoring and weekly applications of fungicides that are mostly not available to the home grower. Actinovate is an organic fungicide Portland Nursery carries,

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that can prevent infection and control the disease. Visit the [Actinovate website](#) for more details. Growing alternative plants (listed below) is another option.

***Impatiens walleriana* at Portland Nursery**

At this time we are planning to carry all types of *Impatiens walleriana* this year, but in smaller quantities. Our growers have taken measures to ensure we can offer you healthy plants. We will also post warnings near the plants to notify customers of the potential threat and suggest alternatives. As always, Portland Nursery is invested in your success in the garden, and we strive to provide you with all the information and tools you need to be so.



Alternatives

There are many colorful alternatives for the shade garden:

- Alyssum (part shade)
- Bacopa (part shade)
- Begonias- all types
- Coleus
- Dichondra (part sun)
- Euphorbia 'Diamond Frost' and 'Breathless Blush'
- Fuchsias
- Helitrope (part shade)
- Hypoestes (polka dot plant)
- Lobelia (part shade)
- New Guinea Impatiens (they are a different species!)
- Strobilanthes
- Sweet Potato vine
- Torenia (Wishbone Flower)