

# *Impatiens x New Guinea Hybrids* New Guinea Impatiens<sup>1</sup>

Edward F. Gilman, Teresa Howe, Ryan W. Klein, and Gail Hansen<sup>2</sup>

## 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. 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.



Figure 1. Full Form - *Impatiens x New Guinea Hybrids*: New Guinea Impatiens

Credits: Edward F. Gilman, UF/IFAS



Figure 2. Full Form - *Impatiens x New Guinea Hybrids*: New Guinea Impatiens

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Figure 3. Leaf - *Impatiens x New Guinea Hybrids*: New Guinea Impatiens

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1. This document is FPS-281, one of a series of the Department of Environmental Horticulture, UF/IFAS Extension. Original publication date October 1999. Revised October 2023. Visit the EDIS website at <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu> for the currently supported version of this publication.
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Figure 4. Flower - *Impatiens x New Guinea Hybrids*: New Guinea Impatiens  
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## 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 (Figure 5)

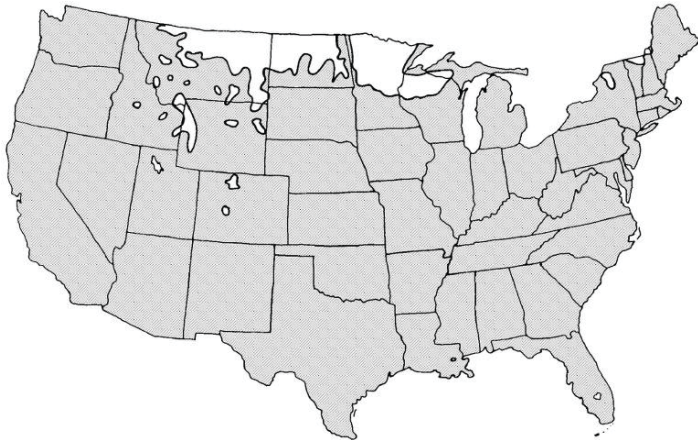


Figure 5. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**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

**Invasive potential:** not known to be invasive

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

**Availability:** generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

## Description

**Height:** 1 to 2 feet

**Spread:** 1 to 2 feet

**Plant habit:** round

**Plant density:** dense

**Growth rate:** fast

**Texture:** medium

## 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

**Soil salt tolerances:** unknown

**Plant spacing:** 12 to 18 inches

## Other

**Roots:** not applicable

**Winter interest:** not applicable

**Outstanding plant:** not particularly outstanding

**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 watering's 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 that 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.