

Do's and Don'ts of New Guinea Impatiens Production

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Do's

Do regular soil tests to insure that nutrient levels/pH/soluble salts are in the recommended ranges.

Recommended media nutrient levels are shown in Table 1.

Grow New Guinea impatiens at warm temperatures. New Guinea impatiens prefer a finishing temperature of constant 68°F.

Increase the pH of the growing media to 6.0. New Guinea impatiens are very susceptible to micronutrient toxicity when media pH is less than 6.0.

Watch for symptoms of tomato spotted wilt virus/impatiens necrotic spot virus. New

Guinea impatiens are very susceptible to these viruses. Symptoms include stunting of growth and development of brown spots on leaves that have concentric rings radiating out from the center of the spot.

Watch roots for evidence of root rot (*Pythium*/*Rhizoctonia*). If root rot is evident,

drench with fungicides for both *Pythium* and *Rhizoctonia* control. Fungicide drenches that are effective for *Pythium* control are Banrot and Subdue. Fungicide drenches that are effective for *Rhizoctonia* control are Banrot and Cleary's 3336.

Pick new cultivars with heat/drought tolerance to insure good garden performance. There are several new cultivars that will continue to bloom - even in full sun. Most notably . . .

Don'ts

Do not feed New Guinea impatiens like other potted bedding plants. New Guinea impatiens require relatively little fertilization. High fertilization will result in soluble salts injury. Soluble salts injury is most obvious by

Table 1. Soilless media nutrient standards for New Guinea impatiens production using Spurway extraction.

Nutrient	Acceptable Range
pH	6.0 - 6.8
Soluble Salts	60 - 180
Nitrates (NO ₃)	120 - 180
Phosphorus (P)	5 - 10
Potassium (K)	20 - 60
Calcium (Ca)	120 - 180
Magnesium (Mg)	30 - 50
Iron (Fe)	0.1 - 0.25
Manganese (Mn)	0.1 - 0.25
Zinc (Zn)	0.1 - 0.25
Boron (B)	0.1 - 0.25