

FLOWERING NEW GUINEA IMPATIENS

Roy W. Judd, Jr.
Extension Horticulturist

New Guinea impatiens have been purchased by many greenhouse operators in Connecticut. The most frequent question they ask about them is, "When do they flower?" This was answered at the recent New England Greenhouse Conference by Dr. Marc Cathey with information supplied in part by Dr. Toru Arisumi who is the USDA geneticist working with the crop.

According to Dr. Cathey, these plants set buds and flower under normal daylength (12 hours of day--12 hours of night). He suggested that these plants not be pinched for three months before the equinox, March 21 or September 23. (Last pinch about Christmas or mid-June.) Grown at 62-69°F night temperature with low nutrition and with even moisture, they will flower indefinitely.

Formula for 18-day pot plant

1. Flowering stock plants are pinched in March or September.
2. Make one or two more pinches, let plant develop 18 leaves per shoot.
3. After three months (in September or March), all shoots will form flowers and bloom for an extended period.
4. Take 4" cuttings and stick in 4" pots. Potting mix should contain 60% peat. Use low level rooting powder.
5. Root under mist if available, otherwise water cuttings in and cover with damp cloth or plastic. Cuttings may wilt for four to five days.
6. Rooting should take place in about 8 days.
7. Plants may flower in 18 days.
8. DO NOT PINCH!!!