

CARE OF IMPATIENS HANGING BASKET



Nothing compares to IMPATIENS for their blooming power. With very little care they will brighten up any shady area. They bloom profusely until frost if these simple directions are followed. You will certainly be awarded with a riot of color all summer long. There are many new and improved varieties for baskets such as the Dazzlers and Showstoppers and Blitz varieties. Even the double varieties have been improved to the point where they bloom well in hanging baskets.

LOCATION : IMPATIENS must be protected from the hot sun and any dry windy locations. Morning sun and afternoon shade makes the best exposure. IMPATIENS do not bloom as well in densely shaded areas. Impatiens cannot tolerate any cold or frost and thrive best between 60 degrees and 85 degrees. If placed indoors on cold nights, make sure that they are returned outside as soon as possible. Never place in garage over night as any residual auto exhaust fumes can damage the plant.

WATERING AND FERTILIZING: IMPATIENS like lantanas are gluttons for water. It is best to keep the soil moist, Fertilize with liquid fertilizer about every ten days. A lack of fertilizer will yellow the leaves. Avoid fertilizer with high nitrogen concentrations such as Miracle-Gro. The foliage will remain nice and green but very few flowers. Make sure soil is moist when fertilizer is applied. Never use dry fertilizer on impatiens baskets. Slow release fertilizers such as Osmocote are good to use.

INSECTS AND DISEASES: Established plants should remain free of any common diseases such as stem rot. Few insects bother impatiens. Red Spiders might become a problem during hot and dry weather. If the leaves begin to bleach or turn white, this might be sign of red spiders. Also look for fine webbing on the backside of the leaf. Treat with any recommended insecticides or frequency hose the baskets since red spider do not like wet conditions. Check also for mealy bugs and their fine white cottony egg cases.

Sometimes symptoms of blackening stems and foliage appear on impatiens. This is a virus which will eventually destroy the plant. There is no cure for this. If you have an impatiens basket that suddenly develops black lesions on the stems it is best to discard it. This virus can spread to other valuable annuals such as petunias and ivy geraniums. Tomatoes and peppers may be infected too.