GrowerFacts

Impatiens New Guinea Clockwork

(*Impatiens hawkeri*)

A Ball FloraPlant Product

Propagation

- Choose a well-drained medium with an EC of 0.75 to 0.80 mmhos and a pH of 5.8 to 6.2.
- Stick cuttings within 12 to 24 hours of arrival. Cuttings can be stored overnight, if necessary, at 45 to 50°F (7 to 10°C).
- Soil temperature should be maintained at 68 to 73° F (20 to 23°C) until roots are visible.
- As soon as is practical, mist should be reduced and then removed from Clockwork New Guinea Impatiens.
- As rooted cuttings are removed from mist, a broad spectrum, foliar fungicide spray should be applied.

- Begin fertilization with 75 to 100 ppm N when roots become visible. Increase to 150 ppm N as roots develop.
- Clockwork New Guinea Impatiens will not require pinching during propagation.
- As the rooted cuttings develop, high light, appropriate water stress and moderate air temperatures should reduce the need for chemical plant growth regulators (PGRs).
- Clockwork New Guinea Impatiens rooted cuttings should be ready for transplanting 21 to 24 days after sticking.

Growing On to Finish

Media

- Use media with good aeration and drainage, balanced against sufficient water-holding capacity.
- Maintain pH of 5.8 to 6.2.

Temperature

- Nights: 59 to 64°F (15 to 18°C)
- Days: 68 to 76°F (20 to 24°C)
- Higher average daily temperatures will result in shorter flowering time.
- An average daily temperature of 68ºF (20ºC) has demonstrated optimal bloom time and bloom size for New Guinea Impatiens. Lower temperatures will increase crop time.

Light

- Plants should be grown with the highest light levels possible, while still maintaining temperatures within the acceptable ranges. Light levels of 4,000 to 7,000 f.c. (40,000 to 70,000 Lux) are appropriate.
- Flowering in New Guinea Impatiens is daylength neutral.

Watering

- Maintain alkalinity below 140 ppm and EC between 1.0 to 1.2 mmhos.
- Allow the media to dry moderately between watering in the first half of the crop cycle, but do not allow the plants to wilt during this period as the quality of the final crop will be reduced.
- As the crop matures and begins to bud and flower, irrigate more frequently and avoid water stress entirely.
- Excessive water stress at any stage will cause leaf edge damage, as well as bud and flower drop.

Humidity

Maintain 40 to 60% relative humidity with good air movement.

Pinching

Clockwork New Guinea Impatiens are naturally well-branched and do not require pinching.

Fertilizer

- Clockwork New Guinea Impatiens have a low fertilizer requirement. Feeding with 175 to 225 ppm N at every watering, starting 7 to 10 days after transplanting, is ideal. Use a balanced fertilizer with no additional micronutrients.
- To encourage early flowering, fertilization should be stopped during the final one-third of the crop. Using fresh water only will promote early flowering.
- New Guinea Impatiens are very sensitive to high salts. Leach with clear water every third watering.
- Excessive ammonia application will cause large leaves and poor flowering.

Controlling Growth

- Clockwork New Guinea Impatiens will generally flower and be saleable well before any plant growth regulators are needed.
- If a plant growth regulator is needed, apply Bonzi (2 to 10 ppm) as a foliar spray after the plants have rooted to the side of the pot. Generally, 1 to 3 applications will be sufficient.
- Mature plants which are approaching shipping size can be drenched with Bonzi (0.25 to 1.0 ppm) to significantly slow vegetative growth while allowing flowering to continue.
- Late sprays of Bonzi may delay flowering.
- These recommendations for plant growth

regulators should be used only as general guidelines. Growers must trial all chemicals under their particular conditions.

Common Problems
Insects: Thrips, spider mites, aphids, fungus gnats.

Diseases: Impatiens Necrotic Spot Virus (INSV), Botrytis (gray mold), stem canker, Pythium, Rhizoctonia.

All Clockwork New Guinea Impatiens cuttings are derived from culture and virus-indexed stock from the **Ball Certified Plants®** program.

Problems: Plant collapse

Causes: Stem canker (Botrytis); Plants grown in saturated soil for extended periods of time (Pythium)

Problems: Excessive vegetative growth, lack of flowers

Causes: Excessive nitrogen; Over-fertilization under low light conditions; Excess or late Florel application; Low light levels and over-watering; wet media

Problems: Foliage necrosis

Causes: Drying out between waterings; Excess minor nutrient levels in media; Botrytis

Problems: Poor branching, thin plants

Causes: Low fertilization in early stages of crop

Clockwork New Guinea Impatiens Crop Schedule & Uses
(Crop Schedule In Weeks)

Unrooted cuttings
4-in. (10-cm) Pots 1 PPP*: 9-11

6-in. (15-cm) Pots 1 PPP*: 10-12

10 to 12-in. (25 to 30-cm) Hanging Baskets 3 to 5 PPP*: 11-14

12 to 14-in. (30 to 35-cm) Containers 4 to 5 PPP*: 14-17

Rooted cuttings
4-in. (10-cm) Pots 1 PPP*: 6-8

6-in. (15-cm) Pots 1 PPP*: 7-9

10 to 12-in. (25 to 30-cm) Hanging Baskets 3 to 5 PPP*: 8-11

12 to 14-in. (30 to 35-cm) Containers 4 to 5 PPP*: 11-14

*PPP: Plants per pot or basket

NOTE: Growers should use the information presented here as a starting point. Crop times will vary depending on the climate, location, time of year and greenhouse environmental conditions. Chemical and PGR recommendations are only guidelines. It is the responsibility of the applicator to read and follow all the current label directions for the specific chemical being used in accordance with all regulations.

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