GrowerFacts

Impatiens Exotic Patchwork

(*Impatiens walleriana*)

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 Patchwork Impatiens. This will help decrease stretch of the rooted cutting.
- Begin fertilization with 75 to 100 ppm N when roots become visible. Increase to 150 ppm N as roots develop.
- Patchwork 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).
- Under low light and warm environmental conditions, cuttings of Patchwork Impatiens will stretch while in propagation. Growers may need to apply PGRs during propagation to control growth. An application of Bonzi (2 to 5 ppm spray) applied at Day 4 to 6 in propagation will decrease stem stretch.
- Patchwork Impatiens rooted cuttings should be ready for transplanting 21 to 24 days after sticking.

Growing On to Finish

Media

- Use a porous, well-drained, soilless medium.
- A pH of 5.8 to 6.2 is optimum.

Temperature

Nights: 56 to 61°F (10 to 17°C)

Days: 68 to 76°F (20 to 24°C)

Light

- Patchwork Impatiens are daylength-neutral and will flower year-round.
- Plants grow best under moderate light intensity; 4,000 to 6,000 f.c. (40,000 to 60,000 Lux) is optimum.
- Plants will stretch at light intensities below 3,000 f.c. (30,000 Lux).
- Reduce light intensity when temperatures are high to prevent flower and leaf burning as well as bud drop.

Watering

- Keep growing media moderately moist. If the media stays too wet, plants will stretch and flowering will be reduced.
- As plants reach the desired size, mild water stress will promote flowering and reduce stretch.

Fertilizer

- Maintain constant fertilization at 175 to 225 ppm N.

- Excessive phosphorous and ammoniacal nitrogen will promote unwanted vegetative growth. Both should be provided in very limited quantities.
- Leach pots periodically with clear water to avoid build-up of salts.
- Controlled-release fertilizer can be used to supplement a liquid feed program.

Pinching

Patchwork Impatiens do not require pinching because they are naturally branching.

Controlling Growth

- Grow plants with adequate light and space.
- Avoid high ammonium and phosphorus fertilizers and do not overwater.
- Bonzi (3 to 15 ppm) applied as a spray 1 to 2 times can be used to control growth of Patchwork Impatiens.
- Mature plants which are approaching saleable size can be drenched with Bonzi (0.25 to 3 ppm) to significantly slow vegetative growth while allowing flowering to continue.
- 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, aphids, fungus gnats.

Diseases: Botrytis (gray mold), Pythium, Rhizoctonia.

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

The most important disease and insect problem associated with Patchwork Impatiens is Impatiens Necrotic Spot Virus (INSV), which is transmitted by

thrips. Control of thrips is necessary to avoid INSV. In North America, contact your Ball sales rep or call the Ball Technical Services team at 800 879-BALL for information on INSV identification and thrips control. Outside of North America, contact your local distributor.

Problem: Plants collapse

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

Problem: Excessive vegetative growth, lack of flowers

Causes: Excessive nitrogen in fertilizer; Excessive phosphorous; Over-fertilization under low light conditions; Low light and overwatering; wet media; Excess or late Florel application

Problem: Foliage necrosis, leaf spot

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

Problem: Poor branching, thin plants

Causes: Low fertilization in early stages of crop

Patchwork Impatiens Crop Schedule & Uses (Crop Schedule In Weeks)

Unrooted cuttings
4-In. (10-Cm) Pots 1 PP* 9-12 weeks
6-In. (15-Cm) Pots 1–2 PP* 10-12 weeks
10–12-In. (25–30-Cm) Pots 3–5 PP* 13-15 weeks

Rooted cuttings
4-In. (10-Cm) Pots 1 PP* 6-9 weeks
6-In. (15-Cm) Pots 1–2 PP* 7-9 weeks
10–12-In. (25–30-Cm) Pots 3–5 PP* 10-12 weeks

*PP: 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.

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