

TECH TIP: DOUBLE IMPATIENS BLOOM ISSUES

Question: Our Fiesta Double Impatiens have buds that do not open completely. The bud forms but the outer petals seem to just dry out and "trap" the rest of the flower from fully blooming. Is this because of heat?

Answer: The problem in Fiesta flowers is related to lack of calcium uptake or availability in the soil. There are different symptoms that justify this conclusion, like petal size and some discoloration of the flower petals. It leads to weaker flower petals, and these are more sensitive to Botrytis infection. Once the outer flower petals are infected with Botrytis and dry out, the flower will not be able to fully bloom anymore. High temperature and high relative humidity can reduce the uptake of calcium, because the plant is not evaporating enough. The flowers are especially sensitive for lack of Ca uptake.

What to do: Go through the Wet (level 4) and Dry (level 2) cycles. Don't keep the pots too wet too long. Create extra air movement around the plants, fertilize with enough calcium. Review your fertilizer program to be sure you are using a balanced fertilizer with adequate micronutrients. Feeding with less than 200 ppm limits the micronutrients and can lead to these symptoms. Foliar testing is needed to determine what is deficient.

