



Pots of white impatiens set in a shady corner brighten it with hundreds of blooms. Feeding with a liquid 20-20-20 fertilizer every two weeks throughout the growing season will keep the blooms coming.

Impatiens Can't Wait

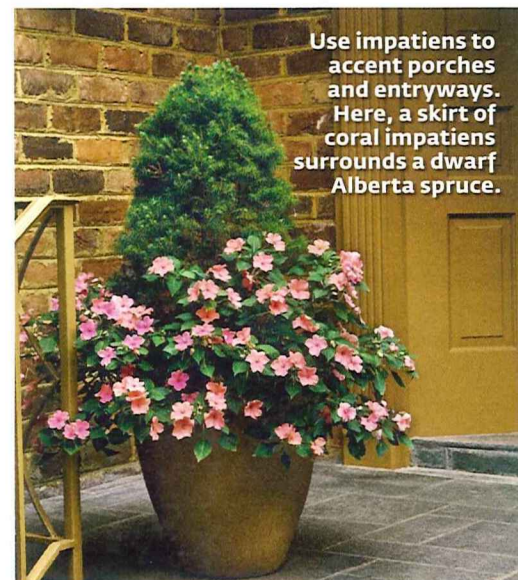
These most popular of annuals start blooming almost as soon as you plant them and never let up.

To beginning gardeners, planting impatiens can be a great confidence builder. Inexpensive transplants that are set out in spring and early summer grow to be knee-high mounds of showy flowers in a rainbow of colors by summer's end.

Just as important, impatiens make excellent container plants. Placed in pots, they can brighten an entrance, deck, or patio. Set out white impatiens around these high-traffic areas where they can be enjoyed during the day; at night, their flowers will glow like little stars. Try impatiens in window boxes and hanging baskets, where they'll cascade over the edges in brilliant waves.



Talk about flowers that take heat and humidity, and you're talking impatiens.



Use impatiens to accent porches and entryways. Here, a skirt of coral impatiens surrounds a dwarf Alberta spruce.



Recipe for Success

● MADE FOR SHADE

Known as shade lovers, traditional impatiens can take some sun when given enough water. Their stems are liquid-filled vessels, and plants wilt when low on water, making it easy to tell when they need a drink. Maintaining evenly moist soil at all times is key to keeping plants happy and stress free.

● BETTER FOR SUN

For nonstop color in a sunny garden, try the New Guinea impatiens. Unlike the traditional kind, they are grown more for their colorful foliage than for their flowers. Large, lance-shaped leaves may be bronze, purple, or green and splashed with cream, white, yellow, or red. For gorgeous flowers in full blazing sun, try the

new SunPatiens. These hybrids take all the heat and humidity summer can dish out. Huge blooms up to 3 inches across may be orange, red, magenta, salmon, or white. Shrubby plants grow 3 feet tall and wide.

● WHAT THEY LIKE

Impatiens prefer shade or partial shade and moist soil. Feed every two weeks with a 20-20-20 fertilizer.

Quick Tip

Traditional impatiens often grow tall and leggy by midsummer. If yours do, pinch them back by 4 to 5 inches. Plants quickly respond with a new flush of growth and are more compact and covered with blooms that can take you to the first frost.