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more**

For the avid gardener

**Impatiens are one
of two bedding plants**

"Patient Lucy" was the name grandmother used for her impatiens plant. She grew it as a houseplant, setting it out on the porch in summertime. Come fall, she would take "slips," root them

in water, and carry the plants over for the next year.

Today, impatiens rank near the top of all bedding plants sold in the United States, says University of Delaware extension horticulturist

Dr. Charles Dunham. It's the most popular plant for growing in shady areas.

Although impatiens thrive in shade, they also do well in sun if their roots are kept reasonably moist. They're excellent for edging borders, window boxes, hanging baskets and planters.

One of the most popular groups of impatiens is the New Guinea hybrids, originally developed by the USDA and Longwood Gardens, with further refinements by Claude Hope at Linda Vista in Costa Rica. Foliage colors of New Guinea hybrids range from green to dark red, and variegated shades of yellow, pink, or white. Mature plants are between one and three feet tall.

Flowers are less abundant but slightly larger than those of other types of impatiens. Blooms measure up to three inches across, and come in white, lavender, pink, magenta, orange, and scarlet.

New Guinea impatiens prefer full sun or light shade. Those with variegated foliage show better leaf color when grown in full sunlight, Dunham says.

Impatiens prefer light-textured,

well drained soil. Apply 5-10-5 fertilizer at 1½ pounds per 100 square feet when you set the plants out in the spring. A lighter application of 5-10-5 fertilizer, ½ pound per 100 square feet, later in the season will give the plants a boost.

Dunham says impatiens are sensitive to cold weather, and should not be planted outside until all danger of frost is past (May 10 in this area). Starting new plants indoors from seed is often slow and difficult. The most popular form of propagation is to take cuttings from outdoor plantings in September and root them in damp sand. In about two weeks they can be transferred to commercial potting soil and kept on a sunny windowsill all winter.

Newly-rooted impatiens should be pinched back when they are five inches tall to encourage branching. Space them 10 to 12 inches apart in the garden. Revitalize older plants by cutting them back severely to force the growth of new shoots at the base.

Dunham says impatiens are generally trouble free, but watch for infestations of aphids, mites,

and whiteflies. Control with orthene at labeled rates.

Recommended varieties of impatiens:

Dwarf- 8 to 10 inches tall, 1- to 1½-inch blooms, compact habit. Super Elfin- Available in many solid colors. Sherbet Mix- Pastel colors that are striking in mass plantings.

Medium- 10 to 12 inches tall, 1½- to 2-inch blooms, compact habit. Fantasia- Available in solids and bicolors. Futura- Available in solid colors; excellent for hanging baskets. Ripple- Bicolors; also good for hanging baskets.

Large- 12 to 14 inches tall, 2-inch blooms. Grande- Available in solids and bicolors. Semi-dwarf, mounded habit; good as bedding plants or for hanging baskets. Blitz- The 1981 All-America selection bronze medal winner. Brilliant orange-scarlet flowers 2 inches across, set off by bronze-green foliage. Well shaped, compact. Duet and Rosette-Delicate double flowers with striking bicolors of scarlet and white. Tangelglow- Extra-large, vibrant tangerine-orange flowers.

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