

## Downy Mildew has now been found on Impatiens in the Twin Cities area

If you had problems with your Impatiens this summer, you're not alone. Gardeners across the country have been noting the spread of Downy Mildew on Impatiens for the last several years and many cases have been spotted in the Twin Cities area in the last few weeks. Once an Impatiens is infected with Downy Mildew, it can be difficult to treat. But, there are many steps that you can take now to control the spread of Downy Mildew in your garden.

### Affected Varieties

The type of Downy Mildew that has been seen this summer only affects *Impatiens walleriana* – seed Impatiens, double Impatiens, and Trailing Impatiens. It does not affect New Guinea Impatiens or Sunpatiens.

### Symptoms

Impatiens that are infected with Downy Mildew may have leaves that start to yellow or curl downward at the edges. The underside of leaves may be coated with a layer of white spores and, after time, the leaves and flowers will begin to drop leaving bare stems.

### Infected Plants

If you have Impatiens in your garden or containers that are infected with Downy Mildew, these plants should be removed. Pull out the plants and remove any fallen leaves or flowers. Place infected plants in the trash; do not put these plants in your compost. Because Downy Mildew spores can live in the soil for several years, infected flower beds should not be planted with Impatiens in the future.

### Shade-loving Alternatives to Impatiens

- New Guinea Impatiens
- Coleus
- Begonias
- Torenia
- Browallia



Double Impatiens with Downy Mildew.



Leaves of Seed Impatiens curling down.

## Prevention

Next spring, all *Impatiens walleriana* varieties at Malmborg's Garden Centers will be treated with a fungicide while they are in the greenhouse. Fungicide can be purchased in the garden center and applied to your Impatiens every few weeks throughout the summer to lessen the risk of Downy Mildew. Keeping Impatiens in areas with good air flow and avoiding watering in the evening will also help reduce the spread.

If you have any questions about Downy Mildew on Impatiens, feel free to contact us at (763) 428-2061 or [malmborgs@geraniumsbygeorge.com](mailto:malmborgs@geraniumsbygeorge.com)



Underside of Impatiens leaves.