**Bedding Impatiens**

- *Impatiens wallerana*
- Balsaminaceae
- New Guinea impatiens, balsam
- Native to east coast of equatorial Africa
- Most popular flatted bedding plant in the U.S., popular hanging basket and potted annual plant

**Cultivars**

- Hundreds of cultivars arranged into series with dozens of colors in each series.
- Small flowered types – i.e. ‘Firefly’
- Double impatiens – cutting propagated
- Some with variegated leaves

**Propagation Stages**

- 1 – 75-80°F, 100% humidity, 450fc, no fertilizer
- 2 – 72-75°F, 75% humidity, 450fc, 50-100 ppm N after 7 days
- 3 – 65-70°F, 150 ppm N after 14 days
- 4 – 60-62°F, fertilize as needed

**Seed Germination**

- Medium pH of 6.2
- Use low water EC
- Provide light up to root emergence
- 68-72°F, if problems occur

**Seed Storage**

- Hold at 40°F and 25-30% humidity.
- Keep packets sealed, return remaining seed to cooler as soon as possible

**Cutting Propagation**

- Easy to propagate, roots in 2-3 weeks
Flowering Control and Dormancy
- Day neutral
- Total accumulated light energy

Growing On
- 60-65°F night, 70-75°F day.
- Full sun
- Moderate water stress results in shorter plants
- Supplemental carbon dioxide is not used

Nutrition
- 100 ppm N every two to three irrigations
- 50-75 ppm N CLF
- Grow at a low nutrition and finish last two weeks with higher rates to green foliage
- Excess fertilization results in very tall plants with few flowers

Media
- pH 6.0-6.2
- Light, well-drained media

Height Control
- Water and nutrient restriction
- B-Nine at 5000 ppm
- Bonzi at 5-18 ppm
- Sumagic at 5 ppm
- DIF is effective

Spacing
- Flats – flat-to-flat
- Pots – pot-to-pot or with some space (1-2 inches) apart
- Baskets – can be fairly tight
Pinching/Disbudding

- No pinching
- Plants can be cut back, allow 2-3 weeks for regrowth, quality reduced
- No disbudding
- No support required

Schedule

- Plugs usually require 5-6 weeks, depends on size of plug
- Add another 5 weeks to finish in flats
- Add 2-3 weeks for pots and baskets

Pests

- Insects – aphids, spider mites, thrips, cyclamen mites
- Diseases – INSV, TSWV
- Other diseases – Rhizoctonia, Pseudomonas, Botrytis

Physiological Disorders

- Seed germination
- Delayed flowering – excessive fertilizer
- Too tall – excessive fertilizer and water

Postharvest

- Plugs can be stored at 45-50°F for up to 6 weeks with 5 fc
- Ship finished plants at 55-61°F
- STS keeps flowers on plants but is not used commercially
- Plants wilt readily – use as large a container as possible