

Alternatives to Garden Impatiens

As garden impatiens, *Impatiens walleriana*, have been severely impacted over the past season by a new downy mildew disease (and will likely continue to be impacted in future years), growers, landscapers, and homeowners are seeking alternatives to this ubiquitous garden plant. Impatiens have been a reliable garden plant for many years due to their color choice, growth habit, price point, and shade tolerance. While it might seem challenging to find plants that will be a suitable replacement, there are many great plant selections that are viable substitutions. The tables below list some options for shade tolerant plants, along with information on crop time and garden size. Don't focus on the negative... use this opportunity to grow and promote different and exciting plants!

Annuals for Shade

	Crop Time* (transplant to finish)	Garden Height (in)	Garden Width (in)
Impatiens walleriana	5-6 wk from 288 plug, 5-7 wk from liner	from 6-8 to 9-11	12-14
Alternanthera	7-8 wk from 288 plug, 4-6 wk from liner	18-36	24-36
Begonia rex hybrid	6-10 wk from 72 tray	8-12	8-10
Begonia boliviensis	5-7 wk	10-14	14-20
Begonia x hiemalis (Reiger, hiemalis)	12-14 wk from liner	10-14	10-12
Begonia x hybrida (many winged, landscape, and trailing types)	5-7 wk	from 10-12 to 28-34	from 10-12 to 30-36
Begonia x semperflorens- cultorum (wax-leaf, fibrous)	8-12 wk from 288 plug	from 8-10 to 9-12	from 6-8 to 7-9
Begonia x tuberhybrida (non-stop, tuberous)	9-10 wk from 288 plug	8-12	8-16
Browalia	9-11 wk from 288 plug	10-12	12-14
Caladium	6-12 wk	12-24	12-24
Coleus	6-8 wk from 288 plug, 5-7 wk from 105 liner	from 8-10 to 20-32	from 8-10 to 18-24
Fuchsia	7-9 wk from plug, 6-8 from liner	10-14	12-16
Hypoestes (polka dot plant)	8-10 wk from plug	10-14	12-14
New Guinea Impatiens (including SunPatiens)	7-9 from liner, 7-8 wk from plug	from 10-12 to 14-16	from 10-12 to 14-16
Oxalis	4-10 wk to force, depending on species	from 6-10 to 12-16	from 8-12 to 12-14
Perilla	6-7 wk from 105 liner	18-36	12-18
Torenia	7-8 wk from 288 plug or 105 liner	6-8, 8-12	6-8, 18-24
Scutellaria	8-11 wk	10-12	10-12

*to be used as a general guideline-crop times will vary depending on cultivar and production methods

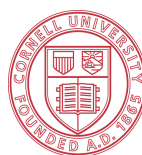
Any questions or comments? Contact:

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Annuals for Partial Shade

There are many more options for annuals for partial shade, some include:

	Crop Time* (transplant to finish)	Garden Height (in)	Garden Width (in)
Cyclamen	16-20 wk	10-16	10-16
Diascia	5-7 wk from 105 liner, 7-9 wk from 288 plug	12-16	12-14
Dichondra	7-9 wk	24-36	up to 72
Euphorbia hypericifolia	5-7 wk from liner	8-15	20-28
Ivy geranium	8-10 wk from 105 liner, 8-9 wk from 128 plug	12-15	12-15
Heliotrope	8-9 wk from 288 plug, 6-8 wk from 72 liner	12-15	10-15
Ipomoea	4-6 wk from liner	12-14	12-14
Iresine	9-11 wk from 288 plug or liner	6-8	36-48
Lobelia	5-6 wk to cell pack from plug, 8-10 wk from liner	from 5-8 to 8-12	from 6-8 to 18-24
Lobularia	7-8 wk from plug, 4-5 from liner	4-8	8-10
Nemesia	5-6 wk from liner	12-14	10-12
Nicotiana	5-7 wk from 288 plug	from 10-12 to 16-18	10-12
Plectranthus	6-8 wk from 105 liner	from 6-8 to 24-30	from 8-10 to 24-30
Salvia splendens	6-7 wk from 288 plug	from 8-10 to 24-30	from 8-10 to 10-12
Sanvitalia	6-9 wk from 105 liner	6-10	12-14

*to be used as a general guideline-crop times will vary depending on cultivar and production methods

Some notes:

- Also consider hardy plants such as ajuga, heuchera, lamium, lysimachia, as well as various grass and grass-like plants.
- It's important to remember and to communicate that New Guinea impatiens are NOT susceptible to impatiens downy mildew.
- It is sometimes assumed by some that New Guinea impatiens is a sun plant. Yes, New Guinea impatiens perform better than garden impatiens in the sun, *but* New Guinea impatiens generally perform equally as well or better in the shade.
- Coleus can also be susceptible to its own downy mildew. If plants will be used in shady sites with overhead irrigation, consider resistant varieties.
- Don't plant shade plants in the sun! For sunny sites recommend annual vinca, angelonia, petunia, geranium, marigold, zinnia, celosia, pentas, gazania, portulaca, and so on!
- Other good resources: Penn State Flower Trials: <http://trialgardenspsu.com>; find trial data for plants in sun and shade (not all will be trialed in both conditions). Also use the knowledge of your plant suppliers and their websites and catalogs.
- Do you have any comments or suggestions? Please send them to me: 631-727-7850 x214 or <nora.catlin@cornell.edu>.

Source of crop time and garden height and width information: Ball Redbook, 18th ed., various plant catalogs.