

## IMPATIENS ALTERNATIVES

Impatiens walleriana, once the king of shade-loving annuals, is readily available at almost every garden center, but this garden workhorse has been seriously challenged by downy mildew, a new threat to standard garden impatiens including double/rosebud, mini, and the hybrid Fusion varieties. Everything appears fine with the plants in May when they are planted, but as the summer progresses their leaves begin to show spores, lose their leaves, and by August there is nothing left.

Industry wide, growing impatiens has become economically unfeasible. Diversity is the key to avoiding loss in our landscapes. We may have relied on impatiens too much and over-planted these beautiful, colorful and adaptable plants. While nothing can replace impatiens, consider other annuals, tropicals and perennials to add the 'wow factor' to shade and part shade gardens. One of the main criteria should be ease of growing and overall effect. The look achieved may be very different but will still brighten up a shady area.

There are a few varieties of impatiens which are either immune or do not show the disease as strongly as I. walleriana. See list below. Note: New Guinea Impatiens have been touted as a 'sun' plant, but they will work very well in the shade

RESISTANT IMPATIENS	SUBSTITUTE SHADE	SUBSTITUTE PART SHADE
Impatiens hawkeri (New Guinea)	Alternanthera	Abutilon
I. auricoma (Jungle Gold)	Begonia rex	Asparagus sprengeri
I. hybrida (Bounce)	Begonia boliviensis	Begonia x hiemalis (Rieger)
I. walleriana 'Imara XDR' <i>great breakthrough in disease resistance</i>	Begonia x hybrida	Brachycome
I. Sunpatiens	Begonia richmondensis	Cholorophytum
I. Beacon	Begonia x semperflorens	Cissus discolor
	Begonia x tuberhybrida	Convolvulus
	Browalia	Cyclamen
	Caladium	Diascia
	Coleus	Dichondra
	Episcia	Euphorbia (flowering)
	Ferns	Gibasis (Bridal Veil)
	Fuchsia	Hypoestes
	Hedera helix&algeriensis	Ipomoea batatus
	Helichrysum	Irsine
	Pansy/Viola	Lobelia
	Scutellaria	Lobularia
	Streptocarpella	Lophospermum
	Strobilanthes	Lysimachia cong. (flowering)
	Torenia	Lysimachia num Aurea
		Meuhlenbeckia
	<b>SUBSTITUTE LIGHT SHADE</b>	Nasturtium (will have fewer blooms)
	Ageratum	Nicotiana
	Bacopa	Niermbergia
	Duranta	Oxalis
	Evolvulus	Perilla
	Hemizygia	Plectranthus
	Heliotrope	Salvia splendens
	Laurentia	Stretocarpus
	Nemesia	Tinantia
		Tradescantia