

URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

From Seed to Harvest: A beginner's guide to growing Impatiens

Impatiens, also known as the Busy Lizzie, are one of the most popular flowers to grow in the nation. It works well when planted in the garden, containers or in planters. Impatiens are annuals that grow in bright, cheerful colors. They can also grow as potted plants indoors.

To plant:

Impatiens are slow growing, so begin seeds three months before the last frost. Seeds can take up to 21 days to germinate. Plant the seeds in individual cells in a planting tray. Fill the cells with seed-starting mix and leave ½ inch between the top of the cell and the soil line. Soak the soil with water until the soil is completely moist. Place two seeds in each cell and cover with a light dusting of the seed-starting mix. Mist the soil, cover the cells with plastic and place the tray in a bright place so the seedlings will sprout. Remove the plastic when the seeds have sprouted and produce one true pair of leaves. Impatiens also can be propagated through cuttings.

To grow:

Transplant Impatiens outdoors after all danger of frost has passed. Impatiens can be planted very close to one another, mere inches apart. If planted nearer to each other, they will grow together. Impatiens must be watered regularly as they are sensitive to lack of water and will wilt quickly. Water the Impatiens at least 2 inches per week. They grow best in partial to full shade. Although they typically do not grow well in full sun, Impatiens can be acclimated to higher light by exposing the Impatiens to full sun in



[Tom Thumb Impatiens seeds available at ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)

longer increments over the course of a week. Impatiens don't require deadheading and will self-remove their dead blooms to continue growth all throughout the summer.

To harvest:

Impatiens are typically not harvested for indoor vases, but their seeds can be harvested for future plantings. Since Impatiens seed pods burst open to spread the seeds over a large area, prepare to harvest the seeds before this happens. Collect the seeds when the plant is flowering and the seed pods haven't opened yet. Seed pods will develop at the base of the flower and will become visible when the flower's petals fall away. Once harvested, split open the pod and shake the seeds into a bowl. Store them in a sealed container in a cool, dry place until ready to plant.

What Impatiens crave:

Impatiens grow best when they are fertilized regularly. Prior to transplanting the Impatiens



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outdoors, add compost or a slow-release fertilizer into the soil. Use water-soluble fertilizer every two weeks during the spring and summer seasons. In addition to this, add a slow-release fertilizer in the early spring and again halfway through the summer.

Where to buy Impatiens seeds:

Urban Farmer offers Impatiens seeds that are perfect for patio containers, hanging baskets and even indoors.

Check out our Impatiens seed selection on our website at ufseeds.com!



Super Elfin Mix Impatiens seeds available at ufseeds.com



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