

2/27/2026

Year Of ... Impatiens

Jennifer Polanz



In this space we'll highlight each of the National Garden Bureau's (NGB) Year Of ... plants. They're chosen because they're easy to grow, popular, genetically diverse, widely adaptable and versatile. Visit [NGB.org](https://www.ngb.org) for free downloadable promotional materials, growing tips and more.

With three-season performance in the ground and in containers/baskets, SunPatiens provide consumers with long-blooming options for the sun and shade.

Today's impatiens can be very versatile, depending on which is used.

There was a bleak period when *Impatiens walleriana* struggled against Impatiens Downy Mildew disease, but now we have resistant varieties like Imara XDR, Beacon and Glimmer (double flowers) that provide those beautiful blooms for shade. On the hybrid New Guinea side, All-America Selections winner SunPatiens leads the way for those looking for blooms in sun and shade. There are many series of New Guineas that can delight customers, too.

Here are a few "Did You Know" facts from NGB:

- In ancient China, impatiens petals were mixed with roses, orchids and alum to make nail polish.
- During its lifetime, the impatiens undergoes a sex change. When the flower first opens, it is male; when the pollen shell sheds, the flower becomes female!
- Impatiens are relatively easy to care for, making them a good option for a busy household. They also thrive in beds, containers, hanging baskets, etc.
- Impatiens flowers attract both butterflies and hummingbirds, contributing to a healthy ecosystem in the garden. **GP**