



Information about Impatiens Walleriana downy mildew (*Plasmopara obducens*)

The bedding and potted colour impatiens, are now prone to a destructive mildew called impatiens downy mildew (IDM) which has recently been discovered for the first time in New Zealand.

This mildew only affects standard impatiens and does not infect the New Guinea impatiens or any other plant species.

IDM is widespread in many parts of the world and it is here now.

If you grow impatiens, your plants may contract it at some stage as the spores can be carried on the wind. If plants become infected, they may rapidly deteriorate and die within a few weeks.

If you have already planted impatiens this season or have previous season plants still going, check them for the mildew.

Look for

light green, yellowing or stippling of leaves, leaves curling downward at the margins, white downy-like growth on the underside of leaves, stunting, leaf and flower drop.



If your plants seem to be affected:



dig out the plant and other impatiens in your garden



burn them or put them in your household rubbish bag. Do not put them in your compost.



Ask your local garden retailer for advice on how to stop the spread in your home garden. There are anti-fungal sprays that can be used.

New Zealand plant producers are hoping to have mildew resistant impatiens seed stock in time for next season, but it won't be this season.

Until then, common impatiens are unlikely to be available for purchase. But there are numerous other colourful bedding plants to choose from.

For more information visit: www.nzppi.co.nz