



## AMERICAN ★ FARMS

*A Growing Company™*

### Impatiens Downy Mildew Alert

Over the past several weeks a disease known as Downy Mildew (*Plasmopara obducens*) that affects Impatiens (*walleriana* species - seed types primarily) has become widespread throughout the landscape environment in Florida. Prior to this outbreak this disease has rarely been found in Florida, or elsewhere in the US, though it has been widespread in Europe for years resulting in devastating crop losses.

Once the plants are infected there is no known cure, though plants can be protected, somewhat, prior to infection, by following a stringent fungicide protocol. Proper identification of the disease symptoms is critical for diagnosis and you can find complete detailed information at [American-farms.com](http://American-farms.com). **Please refer to the Syngenta publication which can be accessed through the American Farms website.**

If you suspect that you have Downy Mildew in your Impatiens crop, it is probably too late to save the crop, and the crop will have to be disposed of using proper disposal methods to prevent further spread of this disease.

If you have a symptom-free crop, and follow the fungicide protocols diligently, you may be able to keep the crop alive but there is no assurance the crop will survive, and it may, in fact, be a futile exercise and the crop will have to be destroyed. Impatiens cannot be replanted in the same planting bed for at least two years.

We have yet to find this disease here at the farm as we have a very strict fungicide program, and the product we are shipping is still free of symptoms. If you still desire to utilize Impatiens you must be willing to spend the time and money if you are to successfully keep this disease in check.

The only good news is that Downy Mildew does not affect any other crops, including New Guinea Impatiens and SunPatiens which are not adversely affected by this disease.

This disease is considered an "Act of God" and is not the fault of any action or inaction by our suppliers or ourselves. If you elect to buy and plant Impatiens in the future it will be at your own risk and American Farms will not offer replacements or credits should this disease show up after planting.

We have a wide range of suitable alternatives to replace Impatiens in the landscape. Please contact your AF rep to provide an email contact to receive updates regarding this issue or assistance in any way.