



Photo Credit: Don Ferrin, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, [www.bugwood.org](http://www.bugwood.org)

# Impatiens Downy Mildew

## Get the Facts

### THREAT

- Downy mildew is caused by the pathogen *Plasmopara obducens*

### HOSTS

- Infects only garden impatiens. New Guinea impatiens and other plants are not affected.

### SYMPTOMS

- Yellowing of foliage and white fuzzy coating on undersurface of leaves. Eventual plant collapse

### TREATMENT

- Infected plants will not recover. Remove plants with symptoms, including roots. Do not compost. Bag and discard in the trash. Replant with plants other than impatiens, such as begonia, coleus or New Guinea impatiens

## Impatiens Downy Mildew in the Home Garden

Impatiens downy mildew is a serious threat to impatiens plants. The disease is caused by the pathogen *Plasmopara obducens*. All varieties of garden impatiens may be affected, however New Guinea impatiens and other plants are not affected. Look for these symptoms: yellowing of the upper leaf surface, downward curling foliage and undersurface of leaves covered in a white fuzzy growth. As the disease progresses the, leaves and flowers drop, leaving bare stems behind. Plants in the garden can become infected by spores in water splashed from nearby infected plants, spores that are blown long distances by the wind or by spores that overwintered in the garden soil. Humid, wet conditions will

encourage disease development. Avoid planting impatiens in environments where leaves stay wet for long periods of time such as in dense shade, or crowded plantings with poor air circulation. Avoid overhead irrigation and water plants early in the day when foliage has plenty of time to dry before nightfall. Plants that are infected with impatiens downy mildew will not recover. Immediately remove infected plants including the roots, bag and discard. Do not compost plants with impatiens downy mildew. Do not replant impatiens on sites where infected plants have been observed in the past. Substitutes for impatiens include begonias, coleus and New Guinea impatiens.