



SunPatiens.com

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------|
| Cultural Information for: | SunPatiens® | Annual |
| Common Name: | SunPatiens | |
| Botanical Name: | Impatiens x hybrida hort | |
| Optimum Growing Temperature: | 60-85°F / 15-29°C | |

- ◆ Root in 2 weeks versus 4
- ◆ Direct stick in up to 5" container
- ◆ Reduced crop time using less energy, yielding more turns
- ◆ Finish cool with petunias and geraniums saving energy and costs
- ◆ Thrive in full sun and have excellent garden vigor
- ◆ Three season performance – spring through hard frost

Direct stick: Direct sticking cuttings into final container (up to 5 inch/13cm) can decrease overall crop time by 10-14 days. With no transplant, the root system can freely expand, producing an established root system more quickly. Use similar misting and light levels as outlined below for rooting in cells.

Rooting in cells: Stick one cutting per cell. SunPatiens® root quickly without use of rooting hormone. Initial light level should be 2,000 foot candles/21,500 lux, increasing to 3,000 foot candles/32,200 lux 10 days after sticking. Maintain soil temperature of 68-75°F/20-24°C. Mist heavy for first 3 days and then only as needed to maintain turgidity. Misting can usually be stopped one week after sticking. Avoid over misting as this depletes nutrients and invites disease. To avoid stretching, transplant cuttings as soon as they are ready.

Finishing

Potting: Plan on one plant per 4 or 6 inch (10 cm or 15 cm) pot. For 12 inch/30 cm hanging baskets, plan on 3 plants per basket for fast cropping.

Media: Select sterile, well-aerated mix. Optimum pH range: 5.8-6.2 with an E.C. less than 0.7 mmhos (1:2 slurry). Consider that the water-holding capacity that is best for consumer performance may be greater than what is ideal for production.

Irrigation/Fertilization: Avoid excessive irrigation when plants are young. Feed with a complete, balanced fertilizers at 200 ppm nitrogen (CLF). A media E.C. level of 1.0-1.2 mmhos (1:2 slurry) is a good target range. Provide periodic clear water applications if excess soluble salts accumulate. Subjecting plants to a strong wilt causes leaf scorch, especially with low humidity levels (>50%).

Temperature/Humidity: SunPatiens® grow under a wide temperature range. Establish crop at an average temperature of 64-66°F/18-19°C. Once

established, grow at 68-85°F/20-30°C during the day and 60-64°F/15-18°C at night. Provide good air circulation at all times. Maintain relative humidity below 70% to prevent diseases like Botrytis gray mold.

Light: Optimum light level is 5,000 foot candles/53,800 lux. Apply light shade only if light intensities cause greenhouse temperatures to exceed 85°F/29°C. Growing below hanging basket lines at lower light levels will reduce number of flowers and increase internode stretch. If producing outdoors under full sun, first acclimate plants to avoid leaf scorch: grow one week at 5,000 foot candles/53,800 lux before moving outdoors.

Pinching: Do not pinch. Pinching is not recommended as it delays flowering by 1-2 weeks and often results in a low, horizontal branching pattern.

Plant Growth Regulators (PGRs): Rapid stretching occurs when canopies between neighboring plants grow together; control with adequate plant spacing and high light levels. SunPatiens® respond well to Bonzi/B-Nine tank mixes or B-Nine alone.

| Desired | PGR recommendation |
|----------|--|
| Maximum | 2,500 ppm B-Nine/10 ppm Bonzi tank mix |
| Moderate | 2,500 ppm B-Nine/5 ppm Bonzi tank mix |
| Minimum | 1,500 ppm B-Nine |

Recommended Spacing:

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 4-5 inch / 10-13 cm | 6-8 inches / 15-20 cm |
| 6 inch-1 gallon / 15 cm | 10-12 inches / 25-30 cm |
| 8 inch / 20 cm | 12-14 inches / 30-35 cm |
| 10 inch / 25 cm | 14-16 inches / 35-40 cm |

Insects: Aphids, caterpillars, fungus gnats and thrips.

Disease: Botrytis (gray mold), viral infections, root and stem rots, bacterial leaf spot.

Crop Scheduling: Flowering dependent on both light levels and temperature. See chart below for details.

| Pot Size | # Liners/Pot | Total Crop Time from 2 ¼ liner | Total Crop Time Direct Stick |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 4-5 inch / 10-13 cm | 1 | 8-9 weeks | 7-8 weeks |
| 6 inch/15 cm | 1 | 11 weeks | 9 weeks |
| 8 inch/15 cm | 1-2 | 12-13 weeks | 10-11 weeks |
| 10 inch/25 cm | 3 | 13-14 weeks | 11-12 weeks |

