

Wisconsin Horticulture Update  
2013

*Impatiens Downy Mildew*

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Wisconsin Horticulture Update  
*Impatiens Downy Mildew*

- **Causes**
  - *Plasmopara obducens*
  - *Bremiella sphaerosperma*
- **Hosts**
  - Standard garden *impatiens* (*I. walleriana*)
  - Balsam *impatiens* (*I. balsamina*)
  - Jewelweed (*I. pallida*, *I. capensis*)
  - New Guinea *impatiens* (*I. hawkeri*)  
(resistant/tolerant)

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- **Geographical Distribution**
  - Worldwide
  - Wherever *impatiens* are grown
- **Survival**
  - Infected plants
  - Soil or potting mixes
  - Seeds

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- **Movement**
  - Infected plants
  - Seed
  - Wind-borne sporangia
- **Favorable Environment**
  - Cool conditions (59 - 73°F)
  - Long leaf wetness periods (> 6 hrs)
  - High humidity



## Wisconsin Horticulture Update *Impatiens Downy Mildew*

- **Control**
  - Start with clean seed and transplants
  - Keep materials from different sources physically separated
  - DO NOT overcrowd plants (i.e., reduce humidity)
  - DO NOT overhead water (i.e., limit leaf wetness periods)
  - Scout frequently

## Wisconsin Horticulture Update *Impatiens Downy Mildew*

- **Control**
  - Obtain proper confirmation of the disease
  - Bag and discard affected plants
    - Symptomatic plants
    - Asymptomatic surrounding plants
  - Disinfect contaminated areas
    - Commercial disinfectants
    - 10% bleach
    - 70% alcohol

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- **Control**
  - Use fungicides to prevent infections
    - mefenoxam, fluopicolide, potassium phosphite, mancozeb, pyraclostrobin + boscalid, fluoxastobin, cyazofamid, dimethomorph, fenamidone, azoxystrobin
    - Alternate active ingredients ([http://www.frac.info/frac/publication/anhang/Frac\\_CODE\\_LIST.pdf](http://www.frac.info/frac/publication/anhang/Frac_CODE_LIST.pdf))
    - Apply at 7 day application intervals
  - Move (i.e., rotate) *impatiens* production

## Plant Diseases *Where to Go for Help*

Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic  
Department of Plant Pathology  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
1630 Linden Drive  
Madison, WI 53706-1598  
(608) 262-2863  
[bdh@plantpath.wisc.edu](mailto:bdh@plantpath.wisc.edu)  
<http://pddc.wisc.edu>  
<http://hort.uwex.edu>