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## **Impatiens and Downy Mildew**

Bedding impatiens (or busy lizzies) are subject to a fungal disease called Downy Mildew. There is no treatment for this disease. Only Busy Lizzies are affected, New Guinea Impatiens and other bedding plants are not affected. In 2011, there was a severe outbreak of the disease and most gardeners lost their impatiens. In recent years the disease seems to be under control again. To help prevent your impatiens plants from being affected by Downy Mildew, we recommend following these guidelines:

- If planting impatiens in pots, containers or hanging baskets, disinfect them before use and always use fresh compost. This is crucial as fungal spores can live in soil and compost for several years.
- Because of the risk of soil contamination, do not plant impatiens in areas of the garden which have previously been affected by Downy Mildew.

In recent years, we have not been aware of any issues with impatiens that we have supplied. However, no impatiens are guaranteed to be resistant to this disease and so we cannot accept any responsibility if they are affected.