New Guinea Impatiens

Infinity® and Ruffles™

NUTRITION

pH: 6.0 – 6.5
EC: (2:1 extraction method) .2 – .6
Constant feeding at 100ppm – 150ppm nitrogen with a fertilizer selected for grower's water quality and soil mix is recommended. Or, once the plants are rooted and actively growing, feeding once per week at 200ppm nitrogen can be done with clear water used only for other irrigations.

TEMPERATURE

Rooting out: 65 – 72 F
Growing on: 65 – 75 F
Holding: 65 – 68 F

WATERING

Maintain moderate soil moisture levels. Allow the soil to cycle from moist to slightly dry. Avoid both severe dry downs/wilting and long periods of wet soil, especially at cooler temperatures. Growing slightly drier will shorten flowering time for the crop. Plants can be allowed to show slight signs of moisture stress before watering. When watering, do so lightly so moisture reaches the bottom of containers, but not to the point of saturating the soil. This practice can also be used to help "hold" plants.

TIMING

4" – 5": 6 – 7 weeks with one Supernova® 50 cell plant per container.
6"/1GL Royale™: 8 – 9 weeks with two Supernova 50 cell plants per container.
8": 8 – 10 weeks with two to three Supernova 50 cell plants per container.
10" Hanging Basket: 11 – 13 weeks with four to five 84 or 104 cell plants per container.

Supernova 50 liners are used at Four Star and are recommended for best flower timing, flower count, and plant size in smaller containers. If 84 and 104 Liners are used for spring production in smaller containers, additional crop time will be required — expect two weeks longer crop time on average.

PLANTING

Supernova 50 Liners and 84 and 104 Liner plants should be planted at or slightly deeper than the liner cell level into a well-drained soil mix selected to match individual water quality and fertilizer blends. Water in thoroughly without saturating and keep a constant moderate moisture level for the first seven to 10 days to establish roots. Pinching should not be needed, except for taller material at time of planting.

LIGHT/LIGHTING

Infinity® and Ruffles™ should be grown in a moderate light area of the greenhouse for optimal plant development and flowering. Growing in a more shaded area will produce taller and softer growth that is less attractive and more disease prone. Additional lighting for flowering is not required.

GROWTH REGULATORS

In most cases, no PGR applications should be required. Only if required, use a light spray of Bonzi® (paclobutrazol) at 1ppm – 2ppm. Moderate soil moisture growing practices and controlling fertilizer levels can be very helpful at managing plant size and encouraging flowering. Infinity Orange Frost and Pink Frost are good indicator plants for possible PGR needs to the Infinity varieties. Ruffles varieties will probably not require any PGR treatments.

PEST and DISEASE MANAGEMENT

There should be little instance of disease if basic cultural guidelines are followed. Provide adequate space, humidity control, and air movement to prevent Botrytis and other fungal disease. Avoid long periods of moisture on the foliage, especially in poor weather conditions. Thrips, Aphids, Spider Mites, and Fungus Gnats can be pests of concern. Broad or Cyclamen Mites can also affect new growth and plant development. **Scout specifically for Thrips. They can spread INSV (Impatiens Necrotic Spot Virus).**

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New Guinea Impatiens Continued

OUTDOOR GROWING SCHEDULE

Infinity and Ruffles *New Guinea Impatiens* finish best in a controlled greenhouse environment, but can be moved outdoors after all threat of frost has passed (late May to early June in Michigan). This recommendation is based on average spring weather and should be adjusted for unseasonably severe or unseasonably mild conditions.

OTHER TIPS

Growing at an average daily temperature of 68 F will produce larger blooms and earlier flowering plants. Maintain higher humidity levels if possible to encourage earlier and larger blooms, 75% optimum. Do not keep too wet or overfertilize. This will affect plant growth and delay flowering. Maintain soil pH levels above 6.0; 6 – 6.5pH is optimum. Fungicides with the active ingredient fludioxonil (Medallion®) can have a PGR effect on *New Guinea Impatiens* and should be avoided.