



Topic: Downy Mildew Affecting Impatiens

Question: It practically happened overnight, but impatiens planted in a large bed have been wiped out. I have accounts involving large amount of impatiens and I don't want it to happen again. I heard that there is a new downy mildew disease that is killing impatiens on the east coast. What do you know about this?

Mike, Estero

Answer: Yes, Florida has been invaded by another downy mildew and this one is affecting impatiens. This is not a new disease, but has recently taken the industry by storm on the east coast of Florida. Our winter conditions are highly conducive for downy mildew development; high relative humidity and cooler temperatures. It is very important that gardeners and landscapers are familiar with the symptoms and that they refrain from installing diseased impatiens. Young plants and new growth are most susceptible and may show symptom first. Initially, leaves may look a little yellowish or speckled. Faint gray lines may be present on the top of leaves and they may be curled downward. Preventative measures are imperative! There are number of fungicides that are effective, but just like with any new disease, it's going to require a change in current management strategies. Once the disease symptom is noticed, it is very unlikely that it can be controlled.

Useful Links:

[Impatiens and Downy Mildew 1](#)
[Impatiens and Downy Mildew 2](#)
[Bedding and Other Colorful Plants](#)

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