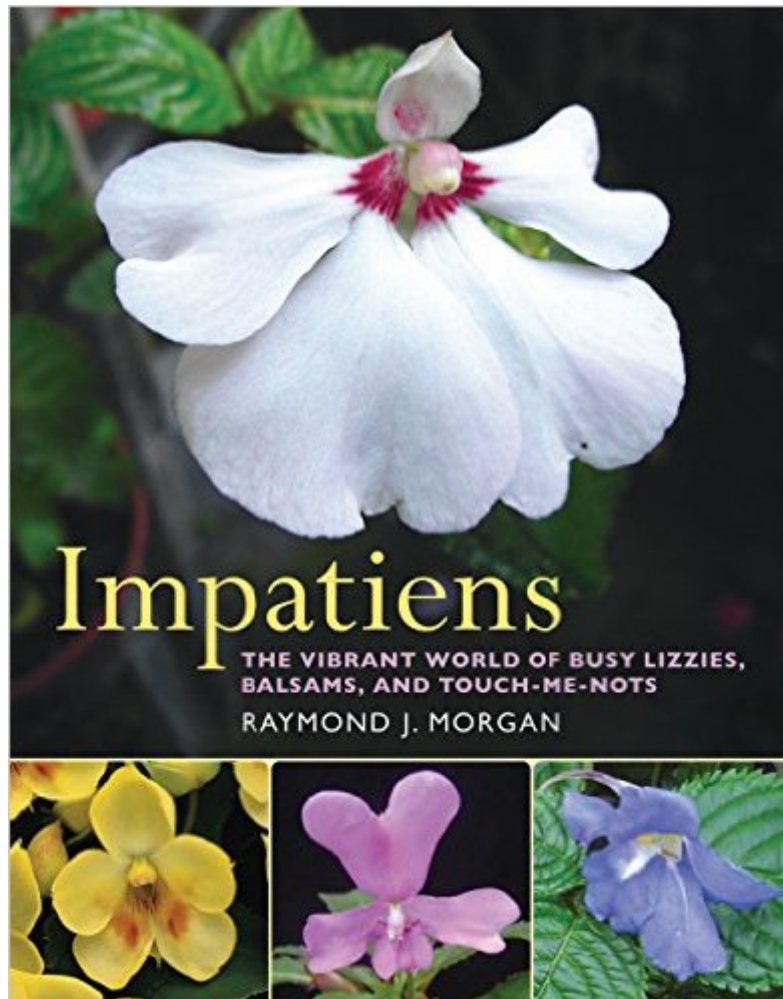


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Impatiens: The Vibrant World Of Busy Lizzies, Lizzies, Balsams, And Touch-me-nots



Synopsis

Many gardeners know of *Impatiens walleriana*, the species that lies behind the myriad colorful garden varieties that brighten up containers, window boxes, and shady spots throughout the world. The genus *Impatiens* is enormous, comprising over a thousand species—many of which, although highly desirable, remain little known to Western gardeners. Raymond Morgan first examines *Impatiens* through a botanical lens, describing their physiology, morphology, and seed dispersal mechanisms. He then recounts Victorian-era plant-hunting forays into the Himalayas and notes how modern-day expeditions, with due concern to conservation, continue to bring back species that will eventually find their way into nursery catalogs and gardens. Perhaps most excitingly, the author describes over 200 species ranging from Madagascar, Sri Lanka, and the Himalayas to New Guinea. Along the way the reader is acquainted with remarkable species, including the giant African *Impatiens tinctoria*, which grows to 6 feet tall, and Tibet's ultramarine *I. nanchabarwensis*, which grows in the deepest canyon on earth. The genus *Impatiens* contains a wealth of untapped treasures for gardeners. With wonderful photographs complementing the detailed plant descriptions, this book is essential reading for curious-minded gardeners keen to unearth this fascinating and largely unexplored genus.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"*Impatiens*" is a good first try at a book on this popular group of plants. However, it's almost like two books. The first half of the book provides good information on culture and updates on breeding

programs (though USA readers should note that the culture information is Brit-slanted). The second half divides the many *Impatiens* species discussed into geographic groups, and the introductions to each of these sections discuss species in the groups that are, or might be, of horticultural interest. However, the species descriptions that follow are in deadening botanese, and appear to have been derived from formal material published in the professional literature. It would have been better for this reviewer to have had garden-oriented descriptions. And why include such material on species that, as yet, do not have names? How is one to locate plants or seeds of these species even after they have been named? The color pictures are generally of high quality, and create a wish on the part of the reader to obtain some of these plants. Alas, the list of sources is very short and includes no specialist growers (perhaps they do not exist as yet). However, I would recommend the book to those building their garden libraries and who have an interest in going beyond the supermarket trays of walleri and New Guinea *Impatiens*.

Probably the first of its kind available to the average reader (and not published in botanical journals), this fine work is a true treasure. While cultural comments are somewhat lacking (some of the *Impatiens* species seem to grow in cool mountain areas), the main portion of the book is a listing by geographical area of some of the more beautiful (and odd) species. A good addition to your horticultural library.

This book is outstanding regarding detailed information of species *impatiens*. The pictures are wonderful as well. I didn't realize there are so many different species. I am now addicted to *impatiens* and will be growing all I can get my hands on! I have my own nursery so this informative book is of great value to me as a grower of rare flora. This book was also a great value. There aren't many books on the subject so this fits the bill. The only info it seemed to lack was what zones & or temperatures certain varieties can be grown in. I recommend this book to anyone interested in rare flora, shade gardening or just wanting to learn more about this type of plant. It is also a beautiful coffee table book.

Very informative work on a genus of plants that's really not that well known, except for the common *impatiens* that we all grow as a bedding plants...

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