

IMPATIENS GERMINATION HINTS

To avoid germination problems, follow these recommendations:

- * Sow impatiens seeds as soon as possible after receiving them. Store seed packages cool and dry (40 to 55 F (5 to 12 C) with relative humidity less than 40 percent).
- * Use only germination medium which has been tested to have a pH of 6.0 to 6.5 and an E.C. of less than 1.0 millimhos.
- * Fill plug trays uniformly. Never stack plug trays directly on top of each other.
- * Be sure irrigation water has a pH between 6.5 and 7.0 with alkalinity less than 100 ppm.
- * Use light in the germination chamber to promote more uniform germination and slow stretching.
- * Maintain soil and air temperatures at stages one and two (from sowing until cotyledon expansion) at 72 to 76 F (22 to 24 C).
- * Maintain 100 percent relative humidity from sowing until the radicle has penetrated the medium. If germinating in a chamber, leave the plug trays in the chamber up to 24 hours after radicle emergence to ensure high relative humidity, although be sure to remove before the seedlings begin to stretch. Pay attention to conditions in the stage two area to be sure relative humidity is close to 100 percent.
- * Never allow the soil surface to dry out, from sowing until the radicle has penetrated the medium.
- * Begin liquid feed at the beginning of stage two (stem and cotyledon emergence) unless the medium has a high starter charge.
- * Be sure the soil is never waterlogged, especially after cotyledon expansion. Monitor boom or mist systems frequently (if used) to be sure excessive water is not applied.