

# BIOSECURITY ALERT

## Impatiens downy mildew (*Plasmopara obducens*) on *Impatiens walleriana* in New Zealand

- > The Ministry for Primary Industries has confirmed that Impatiens downy mildew (IDM) is present in New Zealand.
- > IDM is a fungal disease that ultimately kills its host plant *Impatiens walleriana*.
- > It is very specific to *Impatiens walleriana* and does not affect other species of *Impatiens* including New Guinea *Impatiens*, or other plants.
- > NZPPI is working with MPI to develop an industry-led approach to managing IDM.

### Primary symptoms

light green, yellowing or stippling of leaves, leaves curl downward at the margins, white downy-like growth on the underside of leaves, stunting, leaf and flower drop.

### Principal means of spread

It is readily spread through droplets in the air and in water, and on infected plants, soils and plant debris. There is no evidence of it being seed transmitted. The trade of infected plants can spread the disease. This is an airborne disease.

*P. obducens* is very specific to the *Impatiens* genus. Other plants, including other *Impatiens* species, are not affected.



## Prevention

Industry has developed measures for the management of this pathogen similar to measures for other downy mildew diseases of ornamentals.

They include:

- Implementing hygiene controls in areas where Impatiens are grown
- Employing sound greenhouse sanitation practices
- Using a regular preventive fungicide programme
- Scouting crop frequently to find suspected infection
- Please remember once you have an infection, there is no curative fungicide, only preventative. Once the crop leaves your nursery or garden centre and the preventative measures are not strictly adhered to, the plants are at risk

## Recommendations for nurseries and retailers

Many growers have decided not to provide this product for sale this season.

If you continue to sell current stock we recommend nurseries inform customers at the plant display and at point of sale about this disease, so they can make an informed purchase decision. A leaflet is provided to hand to prospective buyers.

For further information, visit:

[www.nzppi.co.nz](http://www.nzppi.co.nz)



## If downy mildew is confirmed...



**Safely dispose of symptomatic plants and debris (e.g. soil, cuttings, containers/trays) in closed bags**



**Remove from greenhouse or display area**



**Use approved greenhouse disinfectant**



**Begin enhanced preventive fungicide programme.**