



Downy Mildew of Impatiens (Plasmopora obducens)

There are some plant diseases that can have a particularly rapid and damaging affect. Some are contagious, some affect only certain genus and some only single species. A new disease affecting impatiens appeared Australia during Spring 2007

SYMPTOMS:

- Pale green leaves
the underside of affected leaves may show a sparse or dense white layer covering the entire leaf surface. Affected leaves then yellow and may fall off prematurely, or they may collapse.
- Stunted plants
plants may be stunted and produce pale leaves with few or no flowers.



Early symptoms of downy mildew infection may be difficult to detect as the first symptoms are restricted to the underside of the leaves.

Healthy plants are less susceptible to pests and disease.

Consider the following:

- Light
the healthiest plants are nearly always in areas with the correct light levels required.
- Humidity
keep plants as dry as possible without stressing them. The lower the humidity the better. Try to water plants in the morning so their foliage dries off and the environment around them is dry as well.
- Scouting
for pests and diseases - regularly check the health of your plants and remove any dying or sick foliage and place it in the bin - do not compost.
- Nutrition
keep plants well fed but do not overfeed.
- Further help
if you notice a problem or are unsure of anything you have seen, contact us at Town and Country Gardens and we will help.