

Alternatives to Common Impatiens

Annuals for Shade and Part Shade

Note: One of the reasons that people have long loved *Impatiens walleriana* is that the plants have reliably provided lots of color through the summer and into the fall. Although there are many plants that will grow in shade, not all of them are as dependable, long-flowering, or maintenance free. On this list we're only including those plants that perform in a similar manner to impatiens because we know our customers want long lasting, easy color. If you're wondering why some commonly listed shade annuals aren't on this handout, it's because we have found them to be less consistent in performance.

Wax Begonias (six pack plants)

Polka Dot Plant (*Hypoestes phyllostachya* – six packs)

New Guinea Impatiens (four packs or pots) New Guineas bloom best in part-shade. Fertilize regularly or plant with a mix of one part Osmocote and one part FlowerTone.

Sunpatiens a cross between New Guinea Impatiens and a wild impatiens, these plants are vigorous and tall. They look best when planted in groups and bloom better in part-sun. Not for full shade.

Coleus (Note: for plants that you don't have to deadhead, buy coleus in pots not in six packs. Colorful varieties include Red Head, Kingswood Torch, Mt. Washington, El Brighto, Freckles, Keystone Kopper & Life Lime)

Begonias Look for the following varieties: Charm (variegated foliage, pink flowers); Big Red and Big Rose (Proven Winners); Whopper (pink and red - also does well in sun if you need plantings for both conditions that match);

Lobularia 'Snow Princess' (Proven Winners – best in part shade not full shade)

Sweet Potato Vine (all varieties)

Oxalis 'Charmed Wine' (Purple leaves, pale pink flowers)

Kalanchoe 'Flapjacks' (looking for something unusual? How about a succulent that does well in shade? Large paddle-like leaves that are edged in red.)