

**Cultural Information for:** SunPatiens® Annual

**Common Name:** SunPatiens®

**Botanical Name:** Impatiens hybrida hort

**Optimum Rooting Temperature:** 68-75°F / 20-24°C

**Optimum Growing Temperature:** 65-85°F / 18-29°C

**Optimum pH:** 5.8 – 6.2

**EC – Plug:** 0.4 – 0.8 mmhos/cm (1:2) / 0.9 – 2.0 (SME) / 1.1 - 2.6 (Pour Thru)

**EC – Finishing:** 0.9 – 1.3 mmhos/cm (1:2) / 2.1 – 3.5 (SME) / 2.7 - 4.6 (Pour Thru)

## Propagation: 2-3 weeks

**Rooting in cells:** Stick one cutting per cell. SunPatiens® root quickly without the use of rooting hormone. Initial light level should be 2,000-foot candles/21,500 lux, increasing to 3,000-foot candles/32,200 lux 10 days after sticking. Maintain a soil temperature of 68-75°F/20-24 °C. Mist heavy for the first three days and then only as needed to maintain turgidity. Usually, misting can be stopped one week after sticking. Avoid over misting as this depletes nutrients and invites disease. To avoid stretching, transplant the cuttings as soon as they are ready.

**Direct stick:** Direct sticking cuttings into the final container works very well for SunPatiens®. Direct sticking allows the root system to freely expand and yields quicker rooting and an overall reduction in crop time of 2 weeks. Use similar misting and light levels as outlined above for rooting in cells.

## Forcing to flower:

**Potting:** Plan on one plant per 4 or 6 inch / 10 cm. or 15 cm. pot. For 12 inch / 30 cm. hanging baskets, plan on 3 plants per basket for fast cropping.

**Media:** Select a sterile, well-aerated mix. Avoid a pH below 5.8 to avoid iron and manganese toxicity. Consider that the water-holding capacity that is best for consumer performance may be greater than what is ideal for production.

**Irrigation/Fertilization:** Avoid excessive irrigation when the plants are young. Feed with a complete, balanced fertilizers at 100\* ppm nitrogen (CLF). The use of 18-6-12 Osmocote® or other appropriate slow-release fertilizer products may be beneficial in supplementing a CLF program and may provide improved performance for the consumer. Provide periodic clear water applications if excess soluble salts accumulate. Do not subject the plants to a strong wilt which causes leaf scorch; especially when humidity levels are low (>50%).

*\*maintain boron at 0.25 ppm B to avoid a deficiency.*

**Culture Watch Point:** To avoid foliage burn, do not apply cold water (overhead) to warm leaves under bright and warm conditions.

**Temperature/Humidity:** SunPatiens® grow under a wider temperature range but grow fastest when temperatures are warm. Establish the crop at an average temperature of 68-70 °F/20-21 °C. Once established grow at 70-85°F/21-30°C during the day and at 65-70°F/18-21°C at night. Always provide good air circulation. Maintain relative humidity below 70% to prevent diseases like Botrytis gray mold.

**Light:** Bright light is ideal for this crop. Apply a light shade only if light intensities cause greenhouse temperatures to exceed 85°F/29°C. Optimum light level is 5,000-foot candles/53,800 lux. Avoid growing below hanging basket lines

as lower light levels will reduce the number of flowers and increase internode stretch. Producing SunPatiens® outdoors under full sun is also an option, but plants must first be acclimated to avoid leaf scorch. Growing one week at 5,000-foot candles/53,800 lux suffices before moving them outdoors.

**Pinching:** Not recommended as it delays flowering by 1-2 weeks and often results in a low, horizontal branching pattern.

**Plant Growth Regulation:** Adequate spacing between plants, high light levels, moderate fertilizer, and moisture stress are the best ways to control stretch on SunPatiens®. Rapid stretching occurs when the canopies between neighboring plants grow together. SunPatiens® respond well to moisture control to tone and prevent overgrowth.

Foliar applications of soft chemical growth regulators at low rates is an option to tone the plants without negatively impacting consumer performance. Care should be taken to limit the use of chemical PGR's and not to over-regulate. **SunPatiens® are extremely sensitive to Bonzi® drenches, for example, and growth can be severely stunted for months thereby having negative consequences for the end-user.**

| Chemical               | Rate              |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| B-Nine® (daminozide)   | 1,250 - 2,500 ppm |
| Cycocel® (chlormequat) | 750 - 1,500 ppm   |
| A-Rest® (ancymidol)    | 2 - 4 ppm         |

*\*Note: Tank mixes of B-Nine® / Cycocel® and B-Nine® / A-Rest® offer greater control and less phytotoxicity.*

|                    |                                              |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| B-Nine® / Cycocel® | 1,000 – 2,500 B-Nine® / 500 – 1,000 Cycocel® |
| B-Nine® / A-Rest®  | 1,500 – 2,500 B-Nine® / 2 - 4 ppm A-Rest®    |

\*Fertilizing with 15-3-20 at 75 ppm N is also a strategy to reduce plant height by limiting phosphorus. Be sure to supply 0.25 ppm of Boron

**Disease and Insects:** Botrytis (gray mold), viral infections, root and stem rots, bacterial leaf spot. Aphids, caterpillars, fungus gnats and thrips.

## Crop Scheduling:

| Container Size   | Liner per Pot or Cell | Total Crop* Time (weeks) | Total Crop Time* Direct Stick (weeks) |
|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 306/ Jumbo Pack  | 1                     | 7-9 weeks                | 6-8 weeks                             |
| Quart / 5-6 inch | 1                     | 8-10 weeks               | 7-9 weeks                             |
| Gallon / 8 inch  | 1                     | 9-11 weeks               | 8-9 weeks                             |
| 10 inch / 25cm   | 1                     | 11-13 weeks              | 10-11 weeks                           |
| 10 inch / 25cm   | 3                     | 9-11 weeks               | 8-10 weeks                            |
| 12 inch / 30cm   | 3                     | 10-13 weeks              | 9-11 weeks                            |

\*Southern areas with higher light and temperatures finish earlier.

*"All information given is intended for general guidance only and may have to be adjusted to meet individual needs. Cultural details are based on North America conditions and Sakata cannot be held responsible for any crop damage related to the information given herein. Application of recommended growth regulators and chemicals are subject to local and state regulations. Always follow manufacturer's label instructions.*

### 2023-24 SunPatiens® Attributes

| Variety                       | Timing         | Bloom Size       | Vigor             | Height*           | Width*            |
|-------------------------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Compact Blush Pink            | Early          | Large            | Slightly Stronger | 18-32" / 45-80 cm | 14-24" / 35-60 cm |
| Compact Classic White         | Early          | Large            | Average           | 16-30" / 40-75 cm | 14-24" / 35-60 cm |
| Compact Coral Pink            | Early          | Large            | Average           | 16-30" / 40-75 cm | 14-24" / 35-60 cm |
| Compact Deep Red              | Early          | Large            | Average           | 16-30" / 40-75 cm | 14-24" / 35-60 cm |
| Compact Deep Rose             | Very Early     | Large            | Lower             | 12-24" / 30-60 cm | 12-20" / 30-50 cm |
| Compact Electric Orange       | Very Early     | Slightly Smaller | Lower             | 12-24" / 30-60 cm | 12-20" / 30-50 cm |
| Compact Hot Coral             | Very Early     | Large            | Average           | 14-28" / 35-70 cm | 14-24" / 35-60 cm |
| Compact Hot Pink              | Early          | Slightly Smaller | Average           | 16-30" / 40-75 cm | 14-20" / 35-50 cm |
| Compact Lavender              | Early          | Large            | Average           | 16-30" / 40-75 cm | 14-20" / 35-50 cm |
| Compact Lavender Splash       | Early          | Large            | Average           | 16-30" / 40-75 cm | 14-24" / 35-60 cm |
| Compact Lilac Improved        | Early          | Large            | Average           | 16-30" / 40-75 cm | 14-24" / 35-60 cm |
| Compact Orange                | Slightly Later | Large            | Slightly Stronger | 18-32" / 45-80 cm | 14-24" / 35-60 cm |
| Compact Orchid Blush          | Early          | Large            | Slightly Stronger | 18-32" / 45-80 cm | 14-24" / 35-60 cm |
| Compact Purple                | Early          | Large            | Average           | 14-28" / 35-70 cm | 14-24" / 35-60 cm |
| Compact Purple Candy Imp.     | Very Early     | Large            | Average           | 16-30" / 40-75 cm | 14-24" / 35-60 cm |
| Compact Red                   | Early          | Large            | Lower             | 12-24" / 30-60 cm | 12-20" / 30-50 cm |
| Compact Red Candy             | Early          | Large            | Average           | 16-30" / 40-75 cm | 14-24" / 35-60 cm |
| Compact Rose Glow             | Early          | Large            | Slightly Stronger | 18-32" / 45-80 cm | 14-24" / 35-60 cm |
| Compact Tropical Rose         | Slightly Later | Large            | Slightly Stronger | 18-32" / 45-80 cm | 14-24" / 35-60 cm |
| Vigorous Corona               | Early          | Large            | Slightly Stronger | 20-36" / 50-90 cm | 24-36" / 60-90 cm |
| Vigorous Lavender Splash      | Early          | Large            | Average           | 18-34" / 45-85 cm | 24-36" / 60-90 cm |
| Vigorous Orange Imp.          | Early          | Slightly Smaller | Average           | 18-34" / 45-85 cm | 24-36" / 60-90 cm |
| Vigorous Orchid               | Early          | Large            | Average           | 18-34" / 45-85 cm | 24-36" / 60-90 cm |
| Vigorous Peach Candy          | Early          | Large            | Average           | 18-34" / 45-85 cm | 24-36" / 60-90 cm |
| Vigorous Pink Kiss            | Early          | Large            | Average           | 18-34" / 45-85 cm | 24-36" / 60-90 cm |
| Vigorous Purple               | Early          | Large            | Average           | 18-34" / 45-85 cm | 24-36" / 60-90 cm |
| Vigorous Pretty Pink          | Early          | Large            | Slightly Lower    | 18-32" / 45-80 cm | 24-36" / 60-90 cm |
| Vigorous Red                  | Early          | Large            | Average           | 18-34" / 45-85 cm | 24-36" / 60-90 cm |
| Vigorous Rose Pink            | Early          | Large            | Slightly Stronger | 22-36" / 55-90 cm | 24-36" / 60-90 cm |
| Vigorous Sweetheart White     | Early          | Large            | Average           | 18-34" / 45-85 cm | 24-36" / 60-90 cm |
| Vigorous Tropical Orange Imp. | Early          | Medium           | Average           | 18-34" / 45-85 cm | 24-36" / 60-90 cm |
| Vigorous Tropical Salmon      | Slightly Later | Medium           | Slightly Lower    | 18-32" / 45-80 cm | 22-32" / 55-80 cm |
| Vigorous Tropical White       | Early          | Slightly Smaller | Average           | 18-34" / 45-85 cm | 24-36" / 60-90 cm |
| Vigorous White Improved       | Early          | Large            | Average           | 18-34" / 45-85 cm | 24-36" / 60-90 cm |

*\*SunPatiens® grown under cooler (Northern) climates will be smaller than those grown with warmer night temperatures*



SunPatiens® Cutting: 1.5” – 4 cm. long with 4 leaves.



Calloused cutting with roots.



Rooted liner with good balance between top and root growth.



Container finished correctly.

