Garden Balsam

Impatiens balsamina

Height: 30 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Spacing: 16 inches

Sunlight: ◐

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Touch-Me-Not, Garden Jewelweed, Rose Balsam

Description:

Easily grown in moist, organically rich, well drained soil; flower color runs from white to pink, rose, red, purple, or bi-color versions; flowers bloom singly or in clusters; may self seed in the garden, aggressively in warm climates



Garden Balsam flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Garden Balsam is bathed in stunning white cup-shaped flowers along the stems from mid spring to mid fall. Its pointy leaves remain green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Garden Balsam is an open herbaceous annual with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should not require much pruning, except when necessary, such as to remove dieback. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Garden Balsam is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting
- Hanging Baskets



Garden Balsam flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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Planting & Growing

Garden Balsam will grow to be about 30 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 18 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 16 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. This fast-growing annual will normally live for one full growing season, needing replacement the following year.

This plant does best in a location that gets morning sunlight but is shaded from the hot afternoon sun, although it will also grow in partial shade. Keep it away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by cuttings.

Garden Balsam is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor containers and hanging baskets. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.