

Impatiens sodenii

COMMON NAME

sod's balsam, poor man's rhododendron

FAMILY

Balsaminaceae

AUTHORITY

Impatiens sodenii Engl.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

IMPSOD

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial. Waste places, coastal areas, scrubland. Common garden and pot plant.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Glabrous subshrub to about 2m high, stems green, semi succulent. Leaves in whorls of up to 6 up to 12 x 3.5 cm. Flowers solitary on slender pedicels amongst axils of uppermost leaves, 5-6.5 cm diameter, pink. Fruit up to 2.5 cm long, fusiform.

SIMILAR TAXA

I. walleriana is similar but is smaller and has orange or red flowers.

FLOWERING

January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink

LIFE CYCLE

Perennial. Grows well from seeds and cuttings (Ewen Cameron 1996). Dispersed through dumped garden waste and water movement.

YEAR NATURALISED

1958

ORIGIN

Eastern Africa

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

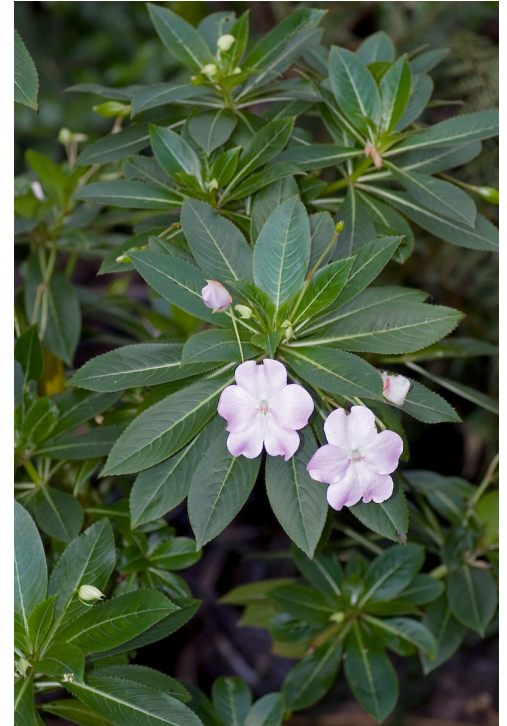
Ornamental

TOLERANCES

Moderate to high shade tolerance.

ETYMOLOGY

impatiens: From the Latin *impatiens* 'impatient, hasty', referring perhaps to the manner in which the pods of some species explode (Johnson and Smith, 1986).



Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 24/04/2006, Licence: CC BY.



Impatiens sodenii. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Johnson, A. T. and Smith, H. A (1986). *Plant Names Simplified: Their pronunciation, derivation and meaning*. Landsman Bookshop Ltd: Buckenhill, UK.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/impatiens-sodenii/>