

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flower and leaves. Photographer Zoya Akulova, Mexico



Flowers and leaves. Photographers Forest & Kim Starr, Hawaii



Flowering stem showing spur on sepal. Photographer Daniel H. Janzen, Costa Rica



Flowering plant. Photographers Forest and Kim Starr, Hawaii, USA

Common name

Impatiens, Garden Balsam, Busy Lizzie

Family

Balsaminaceae

Where found

Damp and shady situations. **Forest** margins, roadsides, disturbed sites, around habitations, and along streams. Sydney area and the mountains to the west. Occasionally coastal farther south.

Notes

Introduced annual or **perennial** herb to 1 m high. Fruit fleshy. Stems hairless, more or less fleshy. Leaves **alternating** up the stems, the uppermost sometimes opposite each other, 3–11 cm long, 10–40 mm wide, glossy, on stalks 10–40 mm long, margins almost **entire** to slightly toothed or scalloped, surfaces hairless, tips pointed. Flowers pink, orange, red, purple, or white, with 5 **petals** 10–20 mm long, uppermost petal largest, **lateral** petals fused the towards base. Lowermost sepal about 10 mm long, whitish, with a **spur** 20–30 mm long. The other 2 **sepals** about 5 mm long, green, and easily missed. Flowers usually 2 or 3 together. Flowering: throughout the year.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Impatiens~walleriana> (accessed 19 January, 2021)

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