

Balfour's touch-me-not

Impatiens balfourii

Description

Introduced as an ornamental.

Habit

Herbaceous annual, grows to 1 to 2.5 feet in height.

Leaves

Simple, ovate-oblong, acuminate leaf apex (long leaf tip) with serrated margins.

Stems

Erect, simple or branched, translucent, pale green and glabrous.

Flowers

Showy, distinct pinkish-purple flowers. Flower petals are fused to form hood and twin lips, and a large spur. 4-8 flowers occur individually on long, erect pedicles (stalks).

Fruits and Seeds

Ovoid seed. Fruit is linear to subclavate, glabrous, loculicidal with the valves dehiscing





elastically and coiling. Seed is 0.25 - 0.3 cm and fruit is 2 - 4 cm long.

Habitat

Native to Asia and the Himalayan region. Found in upland forests, wetlands, grasslands, marshes and stream edges.

Reproduction

Rapidly by seed.

Similar

May be confused with other Impatiens species.

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Preventing plants from going to seed is important. Cut or mow plants while in flower, prior to seed maturation. Herbicides for control are being explored.

Credits

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