

p. 55) (48) 1st draft b Sun Sept 26/76 - f. <Tues> Oct. 5/76 (p 55  
 2nd draft Tues {Wed.} Oct /6/76 (Impatiens)  
 Balsam or jewelweed f <“touch-me-not”> illust color plate 2 + p 588  
 lanceolate leaf all colors planted Fri 9/24/76 (New Year  
 {vertical:} 5737); holsti Taylor 588 tender, fleshy sub-shrub  
 lvs / upper to 3 ft tall leaves ovate app 3" L. Flwrs scarlet 1"  
 sultani / flat, slender spur 1½" L. Trop. Af pot plant indoors  
 occ. whorled (better than outdoors even in summer).  
Balsamina annual 24-30" H stiff + erect, brittle  
 succulent stem, <alternate> lanceolate lvs. smooth. Culvtd var.  
 called lady’s slipper or garden balsam, some  
 vars double or “camellia-flwd,” all colors  
 except blue: pink, old rose, scarlet, yellow  
 purple, white all close to the stem.  
 Fruit: an elastically explosive pod (capsule)  
 discharging its seeds if touched when ripe  
~~Tech. flwr charae~~ Blossoms: sepals 3, two  
 small + green, 3rd petal-like + spurred;  
 5 petals, appearing as 3 by union of two pairs;  
 ovary 5-celled, many-ovuled, short style  
 produced into 5 stigmas.

from old list 26: ~~near~~ grew near elsewhere here hear

cecàre - archaic = to blind, cloud, darken

Cecco <Angiolieri> - Hell’s sidewalk flwr (see Rossetti May india  
Sonnets: IV good . . naturally done . . born of Love as fruit . . of flower  
VI whoso looks . . face . . tho old . . youth again. VII stars . . fewer than

- 1 Impatiens impatience luckless wit <touch-me-not> blind kisses kept [in]
- 2 ~~touch-me-not~~ <dark black> deplore each other fool tune . .
- blues hushed seed jewelweed all an instant
- 3 instant Hell’s sidewalk flower jewelweed XIX but
- mean ~~aspire~~ hell’s-sidewalk fill his beak
- 4 balsam (~~mina~~) <means> spur all-odd? aspires flowers with at his
- 5 (leaf-lance) allayed rarest star kissed young own beck:
- 6 old-rose purple white besides leaf-hearts <heart-leaf> ma di
- 7 garden balsam whole still indoors tal cibo <food>
- 8 scarlet tuned slender-spur outdoor evenings / summer imbecchi <feeds>
- 1 lo suo
- 2 black <clouded> deplore each other fool becco <beak>
- 3 XXI - / Dante . .
- (\*) 4 if either
- 5 of us fling
- 6 old-rose purple white <also> ~~besides~~ heart-leaf dirt at / the other
- 7 garden balsam whole still <stay> indoors [’s] a / fool
- (\*) 8 For lack
- line 2 begins clouded of luck
- (\*) line 4 ends leaflance ~~+~~ wit / we do
- line 8 ” summer l. 7 ^ stay / l. 6 ^ also f. Oct 6/76 these / things.

\* \* \*

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Edited and transcribed by Jeffrey Twitchell-Waas.}

## Sources

Taylor, *Taylor's Encyclopedia of Gardening*, **Balsaminaceae, Impatiens** (plate 2)

*Century Dictionary (CD)*, **Impatiens**

Dante Gabriel Rossetti, *The Early Italian Poets*. Cecco Angiolieri, Sonnets IV, VI, VII, XIX, XXI

## Impatiens

line 1: **Impatiens impatience luckless wit touch-me-not**  
 line 2: **clouded deplore each other fool**  
 line 3: **instant blues hushed seed jewelweed**  
 line 4: **balsam-mean aspires hell's-sidewalk flowers leafance**  
 line 5: **allayed rarest star kiss young**  
 line 6: **old-rose purple white also heart-leaf**  
 line 7: **garden balsam whole stay indoors**  
 line 8: **scarlet-tuned slender-spur outdoor evenings summer**

Sept 26-Oct 6/76

line 1: **Impatiens impatience luckless wit touch-me-not**

Taylor, **Impatiens** (in-pay'shens). A genus belonging to the balsam family, represented by nearly 500 species widely distributed, found in As., tropical Af. and N.A. They are tender, succulent annuals and perennials with irregular, spurred flowers which may be solitary or clustered in the axils of the leaves. The fruit, a pod, will burst easily, often scattering seeds, the plants deriving therefrom the names—touch-me-not, snapweed (*Impatiens* is from the Latin for impatience, in allusion to the bursting of the pods.) {...}

Jewelweed and snapweed are the names applied to N.A. species *I. Bifora* and *I. Pallida*, which are scarcely garden plants. {The same information is found in *CD*, **Impatiens** and **balsam**, see notebook notes line 4}.

Dante Gabriel Rossetti, *The Early Italian Poets*. Cecco Angiolieri, Sonnet XXI, To Dante Alighieri, l. 9-11:

So that, 'fore Heaven! if either of us flings  
Much dirt at the other, he must be a fool:  
 For lack of luck and wit we do these things.

line 2: **clouded deplore each other fool**

{LZ's notes above suggest that the name Cecco derives from the archaic It. verb *cecicare*, from Latin *caecare* meaning to blind or obscure, although being **clouded** also results from impatience and touchiness}.

See Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Cecco Angiolieri line 1.

line 3: **instant blues hushed seed jewelweed**

Taylor, **Impatiens** {see line 1, Illustration with following caption:} Garden Balsam (*Impatiens Balsamina*), a tender annual with flowers of nearly all colors except blue in its many hort. forms.

See Taylor line 1.

line 4: **balsam-mean aspires hell's sidewalk flowers leaflance**

See Taylor, **I. Balsamina** line 6.

**balsam-mean a-** < *Balsamina*

**hell's-sidewalk flowers** {referring to *Impatiens red*, which has a bright scarlet flower and may have been ordered by the Zukofskys. See black notebook: "4/11/69 - [my] intention, hell's sidewalk / flower 'Impatiens Red' (balsam <Touch-me-not>, See Century / Dict." > copied into "A"-22 & -23 notebook (159) > copied again into NBk (p. 1) > then once again in NBk "Revised/Abbreviated list of original 80 Flowers alphabetical order nos. 1ff": "37. Impatiens red (Century Dict Balsam f 'Hell's sidewalk / flwr' Z / w. Cecco Rossetti Dante &"}.

See Taylor, **I. Balsamina** line 6.

line 5: **allayed rarest star kiss young**

Dante Gabriel Rossetti, *The Early Italian Poets*. Cecco Angiolieri, Sonnet VII. *Of the 20th June, 1291*, l. 9-11:

Because the stars are fewer in heaven's span  
Than all those kisses wherewith I kept tune  
All in an instant (I who now have none!)

Sonnet VI. *To Messer Angiolieri, his Father*, l. 12-14:

And if you want my reason on this head,  
It is that whoso looks her in the face,  
Though he were old, gets back his youth again.

line 6: **old-rose purple white also heart-leaf**

Taylor, **Impatiens** {see line 1} > **I. Balsamina**. Tender annual, 24-30 in. tall, stiff and erect. Stem brittle and succulent, leaves smooth and lanceolate {> More or less lance-shaped; *i.e.*, much longer than broad and tapering toward a slender, pointed tip}. Flowers of cultivated varieties of this species called lady's-slipper or garden balsam, come in brilliant colors, some very double or "camellia-flowered," in salmon-pink, old rose, scarlet, yellow, purple, white, the flowers being borne close to the stem.

line 7: **garden balsam whole stay indoors**

See Taylor line 3 and line 6.

Taylor, **Impatiens** {see line 1} > **I. holsti**. Tender, fleshy sub-shrub to 3 ft. tall, the leaves ovate, about 3 in. long. Flowers scarlet, over 1 in. across, flat, with slender spur 1½ in long. Tropical Af. Used as a pot plant indoors or for the garden during the summer.

#48 - Impatiens

Notes for *80 Flowers* [4]

line 8: **scarlet-tuned slender-spur outdoor evenings summer**

See Taylor, **I. holsti** line 7.

See Cecco Angiolieri, Sonnet VII line 5.