



Common name: **Jewelweed**

Genus Species: *Impatiens capensis*



Photo credit: Ansel Oommen, Bugwood.org

**Description:** Jewelweed is an annual herbaceous plant growing 2 to 5 feet tall or more. This plant has two types of flowers: showy flowers that open, and inconspicuous flowers that don't open and which are self-pollinated.

**Habitats:** Jewelweed grows on moist ground in marshes, swamp and lake edges, low woods, slopes, stream banks, ravines, and roadsides.

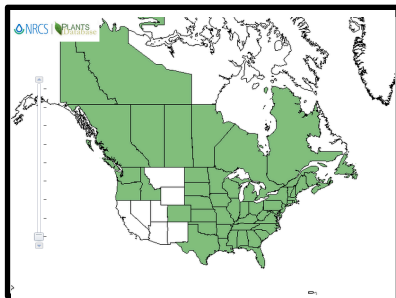
**Phenology highlight:** To test fruit for ripeness, touch gently. Ripe fruits will forcefully eject seeds up to two meters away, giving rise to two common names for jewelweed, touch-me-nots and poppers.

### Species facts

- Jewelweed's showy orange flowers are insect-, hummingbird-, and self-pollinated.
- Deer and caterpillars eat the leaves. Quail, mice, and other animals eat the seeds.
- Jewelweed has a long history of use in Native American medicine. Sap from the stem and leaves is said to relieve itching and pain from a variety of ailments, including hives, poison ivy, stinging nettle, and other skin sores and irritations.
- The sap has also been shown to have anti-fungal properties and can be used to treat athlete's foot.



Photo credit: Ellen G. Denny, usanpn.org



**Why observe this species?** Jewelweed is a USA-NPN regional plant species. Regional species are ecologically or economically important but are distributed more locally than calibration species. The NPN integrates these observations to understand better plant responses within the different geographic regions of the nation.

**Tip for observing this species:** If drought seems to be the cause of leaf senescence for a plant, please make a comment about it for that observation.

Map credit: USDA, NRCS. 2014. The PLANTS Database (<http://plants.usda.gov>, 21 August 2014). National Plant Data Team, Greensboro, NC 27401-4901 USA

For more information about phenology and the New York Phenology Project (NYPP), please visit the NYPP website ([www.nyphenology.org](http://www.nyphenology.org)) and the USA-NPN website ([www.usanpn.org](http://www.usanpn.org))



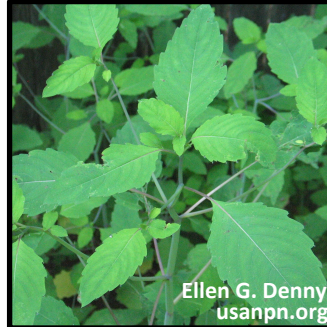
## Jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*)

**Note:** flower and fruit phenophases are nested so you may need to record more than one phenophase for each; for example, if you record **Y** for "open flowers" you should also record **Y** for "flowers or flower buds."

### Initial Growth

New growth is visible as new green seedlings. Growth is "initial" until the first true leaf has unfolded and includes the first two small roundish leaves (cotyledons).

Photo credit



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**Leaves** One or more live fully unfolded leaves are visible. Count only true leaves, not the two small roundish leaves (cotyledons) found on the stem shortly after the seedling germinates. Do not include fully dried or dead leaves.

### Flowers or flower buds

One or more fresh open or unopened flowers or flower buds are visible. Include developing flower buds, but not wilted or dried flowers.



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nyphenology.org



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**Open flowers** One or more open fresh flowers are visible. Flowers are "open" when the reproductive parts (male stamens or female pistils) are visible. Do not include wilted or dried flowers.

**Fruits** One or more fruits are visible. Jewelweed fruit is a green capsule green that gradually inflates in size. Do not include empty capsules.



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**Ripe fruits** One or more ripe fruits are visible on the plant. Jewelweed fruit is ripe when it has inflated and readily explodes open to release the seeds when touched. Do not include empty capsules that have released all their seeds.

### Recent fruit or seed drop

One or more mature fruits or seeds have dropped or been removed from the plant since your last visit. Do not include empty fruits that long ago dropped all of their seeds.



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### Adaptation for pollination

Jewelweed's showy tubular flowers are especially adapted to hummingbird visitation, though bees and butterflies are also important pollinators.

All phenophases pictured here