

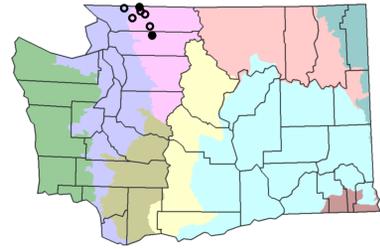
## ***Impatiens noli-tangere* L.**

western jewel-weed

Balsaminaceae - touch-me-not family

status: State Threatened, USFS strategic

rank: G4G5 / S1



**General Description:** Adapted from Hitchcock et al. (1955-1969) and Zika (2006): Hairless, branching, succulent annual up to 6 dm tall. Leaves alternate, long petiolate (2-4 cm), elliptic-ovate, 3-12 cm long, coarsely toothed, mucronate.

**Floral Characteristics:** Flowers bilaterally symmetrical, 15-20 mm long (measured from the pedicel to the spur base), typically in pairs, pale yellow with fine brownish or purplish mottling on the dorsal side of the saccate sepals; 4 lateral petals united in pairs, appearing as 2, and the upper petal notched. Sepals 1-2 cm long, tapering gradually, concave in outline, to the 6-10 mm recurved spur.

**Fruits:** Pod with 5 chambers, which may merge into 1 as septa break down. Flowers and sets fruit July to September.

**Identification Tips:** Note that the illustrations in the Hitchcock & Cronquist (1973) are upside down. Two other species of *Impatiens* in WA have spotted flowers with curved spurs. *I. aurella* grows east of the Cascade Range and has smaller flowers, 9-14 mm long. *I. capensis* has deep orange or yellowish orange flowers with calyces that taper to the spur abruptly, appearing convex in outline.

**Range:** Circumboreal and south along the Pacific coast to northwestern WA.

**Habitat/Ecology:** Moist woods, lowlands.

**Comments:**

**References:** Zika 2006, 2009.



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