

May 2, 2020

I have a small deck/balcony in my condo facing north and it is in shade most of the time but one corner gets some sun late in the afternoon, so I have to pick shade loving flowers.

Over the years I have used coleus but it gets was too big by summer's end and last year I used Dragon Wing begonia but it kind of took over and then last winter before all of this, I found shade loving hydrangeas in a seed catalogue that can be grown in containers and I always use impatiens, my go to flowers.

Impatiens thrive in the shade and make big splashes of color with very little effort. I cut imaptiens and bring them inside and that pruning makes the plants put out more flowers and more color. Impatiens are hard working plants that bring easy beauty into the shade where not many plants do well.

As we were reaching last mid-October, I cut my last bunch of imaptiens and put them in a big ball jar and set them on the table where I keep thank you cards and cards and drawings that come from kids. That table is not very orderly, but it is very important to me.

I was gone in November and when I came back most of the imaptiens had died except for one stem that had one last pale flower on it. I pulled out the dead stems added water and then forgot about the jar until March 17 when we began our stay at home and in those first days I cleaned lots of places because I am really not very neat and not at all organized and being in the lock down I just needed to do anything but worry, so I cleaned house, in my way of cleaning.

When I got to the jar that stem was still living, no flowers but it had developed roots. I moved the jar closer to the window and on Easter Sunday I put the stem into soil in a pot.

I am happy to say that it is thriving and looks like it will begin flowering soon.

I would really like to grow marigolds and petunias on my deck, and I have tried but marigolds and petunias just do not thrive without sun, so I have found impatiens to be just fine and I am looking forward to my shade loving container grown hydrangeas.

Covid 19 is a novel virus, a new virus, and while there may be zillions of viruses all around us, Covid 19 is deadly to many and a terribly disrupting reality to all, and we are gleaning new information everyday about how it works and what rules it follows every day, and maybe someday we will know as much about Covid 19 as we know about impatiens, but we are still early in the learning.

As Brad Pitt, lovingly playing Dr. Anthony Fauci last week on Saturday Night Live, said, “miracles should not be Plan A, even Sully tried to land at the airport first.”

Let's hope and pray that we learn all of the rules that this virus follows before we get too far ahead of ourselves.