

You are viewing one of thousands of biographies – click below for more, including Search box and access to Plant associated organisations.

[Plant Biographies](#)

[Bibliography](#)

---

*Impatiens aurea*

[Synonyms : *Impatiens noli*, *Impatiens pallida*]

**JEWEL WEED** is an annual. Native to North America it has spurred, reddish-brown spotted, pale yellow flowers.

It is also known as Balsam, Balsam jewelweed, Balsam weed, Lady's slipper, Pale jewelweed, Pale snapweed, Pale touch-me-not, Quick-in-the-hand, Silverweed, Slippers, Slipperweed, Snapweed, Touch-me-not, Weathercock, Wild balsam, Wild celandine, Wild lady's slipper, Yellow jewelweed, and Yellow touch-me-not.

The fruit pods explode when ripe to expel the seeds inside.

Warning – strong doses can cause vomiting.

*Aurea* means 'golden' with reference to the flowers.

The North American Cherokee Indians included jewel weed as an ingredient in one of their ceremonial liquors. It was also a source of medicine for several tribes, including the Iroquois, Potawatomi, Cherokee, and Omaha Indians who used the juice for treating the discomfort caused by poison ivy rash (*Rhus radicans*). The Cherokee tribe also used the plant during childbirth (as did the Iroquois), and as part of treatment for measles

Medicinally, the fresh plant has been used in ointment form to treat piles, and the juice of the plant has been used to remove corns and warts, and as a cure for ringworm. The leaves provide a remedy for many stings from plants eg. nettle and ease some insect bites.