

Cultural Information for: Coleus PartyTime™ Annual
Common Name: Coleus
Botanical Name: Solenostemon x hybrida
Optimum Rooting Temperature 70-75°F / 21-24°C
Optimum Growing Temperature: 75-85°F / 24-29°C

Propagation: 3 weeks

Rooting: Coleus roots easily without the use of rooting hormones. However, using a hormone with either 2,500 ppm of IBA or 500 ppm NAA reduces time to root and improves uniformity. Mist as needed to maintain the plants turgid. In general, cuttings require 4-6 days of mist. Avoid over misting which slows rooting and invites root rot and botrytis. Bottom heat at 70-75°F/ 21-24°C enhances root development. Maintain air temperature at 75°F/24°C during the day and 68°F/20°C at night until roots are present. To prevent plant stretch, apply B-Nine® (daminozide) at 1,500-2,500 ppm / 0.15-0.25%. Begin feeding with a well-balanced fertilizer at 150 ppm N once a week beginning in week 2.

Finishing:

Potting: Plant one rooted cutting per 4-6 inch/10-15 cm. pot or 3 cuttings per 10 inch/25 cm. hanging basket.

Media: A light, sterile media with good drainage and aeration is best. The optimum pH range is between 5.5 and 6.3.

Irrigation/Fertilization: Plants should be allowed to dry thoroughly between watering, but do not allow the plants to wilt. Watering early in the day allows the foliage to dry before nightfall. Constant liquid feed (CLF) at 150-200 ppm N with a complete balanced liquid fertilizer works well. Ammonium nitrate promotes softer growth and stretching so it is best to avoid. Periodic applications of magnesium at 30-50 ppm Mg is recommended for a vibrant leaf color. The EC should range from 1.5-2.0 mmhos (2:1 dilution).

| Magnesium Sulfate MgSO4 | Parts per million |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 ounce per 100 gallons | 7.5 ppm |
| 7.5 grams per 100 liters | 7.5 ppm |

Temperature/Humidity: Establish the crop at an average temperature of 65°F/18°C. After establishing, grow at 70-85°F/21-29°C during the day and 60-65°F/16-18°C at night. Provide continuous good air circulation and a relative humidity below 70% to prevent diseases like Botrytis (gray mold).

Light: Coleus tolerate high light, up to 6,000 foot candles/65,000 lux, but leaf color is more intense under shadier conditions, 1,500-3,000 foot candles/16,000-31,000 lux.

Pinching: Once the plants are established, a terminal pinch promotes branching. Additional pinching may be necessary to shape the plants or control height. For fast cropping do not pinch.

Plant Growth Regulators (PGRs): Chemical growth regulators are usually not required. Providing adequate light, moderate temperatures and a slight negative DIF are natural means to avoid plant stretching. If necessary, foliar applications of B-Nine® work well to tone and control plant stretch. An initial application of 1,500 ppm/ 0.15% 2-4 weeks after transplant (wait at least one week if the plants are pinched) works well. Increase B-Nine® concentration to 2,500 ppm/0.25% if more growth control is needed. Other options include Cycocel® (chlormequat) sprays at 1,500 ppm or a tank mix spray combination of B-Nine/Cycocel at 1,500 B-Nine / 750 Cycocel respectively.

Spacing: Plants should be established pot tight and then spaced before foliage touches.

Insects: Aphid, mealybugs, whiteflies

Disease: Alternaria, botrytis (gray mold), pythium

Crop scheduling from transplant:

| Pot Size | # of cuttings | Crop Time |
|----------------|---------------|------------|
| 4 inch /10 cm. | 1 | 3-5 weeks |
| 6 inch/15 cm. | 1 | 4-6 weeks |
| 10 inch/25 cm. | 3 | 6-10 weeks |

Specs:

- ❖ Trailing to semi-trailing habit
- ❖ Dense, well branched plants
- ❖ Compact, controlled growth
- ❖ Ideal component plant for mixes

“All information given is intended for general guidance only and may have to be adjusted to meet individual needs. Cultural details are based on North American conditions and Sakata cannot be held responsible for any crop damage related to the information given herein. Application of recommended growth regulators and chemicals are subject to local and state regulations. Always follow manufacturer’s label instructions. Testing a few plants prior to treating the entire crop is best.”