

Coleus

Solenostemon scuttellarioides

Coleus is a beautiful landscape plant prized for its colorful foliage, which comes in shades of green, yellow, pink, red, orange, and maroon. These versatile plants can be used in hanging baskets, containers, or in landscape beds. Coleus is a heat-tolerant, durable annual that has very few disease or insect problems. Many gardeners are looking for a bold pop of color often think flowers are the best way to get that but plants like coleus can give non-stop color with their striking leaves. Coleus is hard to kill and easy to propagate, making it a wonderful choice for gardeners at all levels of experience. Traditionally, most coleus plants have grown best in partial shade but there are now many new varieties that thrive in full, hot sun. Check the specifics for your coleus variety before planting to make sure it is in an area where it will receive the correct light levels.

Type: annual

USDA hardiness zones: annual/all zones

Uses: border; mass planting; container or above-ground planter; accent; hanging basket

Origin: not native to North America

Height: 1 to 3 feet **Spread:** 1 to 3 feet

Plant spacing: 1 to 3 feet

Light requirement: part shade to part sun

Soil tolerances: acidic; clay; sand; loam

Drought tolerance: low

Soil salt tolerances: unknown

Invasive potential: none

Pest resistance: mites cause the leaves to be puckered and distorted.

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Photo: UF/IFAS