



If you're not you should be. This is not your grandmother's coleus – it's become one of the most versatile plants on the market. There are tall varieties of coleus. Mounding varieties of coleus. Even trailing varieties of coleus. In fact, coleus could be the only ingredient in the thriller, filler, spiller recipe! Success with this amazing annual is easy if you keep a few things in mind.

1. The right light is important.

Coleus has always been thought of as a shade plant but morning sun is ideal for bringing out its colors. Today, not unlike hosta, there are coleus varieties that have been bred to tolerate more sun. Look for darker tones or those with the name 'Sun,' 'Solar', or 'Florida' in their names.



2. Coleus does not like wet feet.

Consistent moisture is important as coleus does NOT like to dry out. Too much water, however, is also a bad thing. If your soil is not well-draining and coleus roots end up sitting in water the plant will reward you by dying. If you are unsure of what kind of soil you have you can always do a percolation test – there are many tutorials online.

3. Be patient when planting.

Many of us can't wait to get gardening once the season has started but hold off on planting coleus until the soil has warmed and evening temperatures are consistently in the 60's. Coleus does NOT like the cold. I learned this the hard way when I decided to store containers I had created for a spring Flower Show (using coleus) inside the van overnight. Bad idea. Timing for planting will vary depending on what zone you garden in.





Favorite Upright Coleus

Dipt in Wine
Wasabi
El Brighto
Sedona
Mighty Mosaic
Campfire
Japanese Giant

Favorite Mounding Coleus

Bonefish
Lime Shrimp
Curly Magenta
Kiwi Fern
Smallwoods Drive
Glennis

Favorite Trailing Coleus

Lava Rose
Burgundy Wedding Train
Yosemite

