

Cultural Details: **Coleus**

Introduction

Breeding work in recent years has been aimed at developing attractively coloured leaves with deep lobes, a good branching habit and in some cases dwarfness. In the U.S.A. coleus is used extensively as a bedding plant and whilst it can be used as a bedding plant in the warmer parts of the U.K. (especially by local authorities), its main role is a pot plant or in window boxes and hanging baskets.

It is one of the easiest foliage plants to raise as an inexpensive pot plant for quick turnover.

Sow: February - April on the surface of a fine compost, do not cover as Coleus germinates best in the light. Keep moist by lightly spraying with water and maintain a temperature of 18°C and germination should occur in 10-14 days.

Prick Out: After about 5 weeks into 6-packs for bedding, or small pots (7-9cm) for pot plants. Do not delay pricking out, as root disturbance can severely check growth and always use individual containers to accommodate the large root system. Grow on at a temperature of 16°C, with a minimum of 14°C.

To get balanced growth the plants require good light and space, pinching out may be required to encourage branching but with many modern varieties this is not necessary. Growth regulators may be used - consult manufacturers information.

Pests & Diseases

Generally trouble free, though monitor for the presence of insect pests.

Information provided for guidance only, as cultural practices and climatic circumstances vary.