

MOLES SEEDS

Coleus

Cultural Leaflet: ZZ124

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 US coleus is used extensively as a bedding plant and whilst it can be used as a bedding plant in the warmer parts of the UK (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.

Programming the Crop

February - March on the surface of a fine compost, either cover lightly with vermiculite or do not cover at all as Coleus germinates best in the light.

Propagation and Growing-on

Keep moist by lightly spraying with water and maintain a temperature of 18°C and germination should occur in 10-14 days.

After about five weeks into 6-packs for bedding, or small pots (8-10cm) 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.

Pest and Disease

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

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

(06/19)

