

### Coleus Indian Summer

*Coleus hybrida*



- A Simply Beautiful®, a Made for the Shade and a Hot Summer Survivors selection!
- Multi-colored leaves are earthy red, green and brown. Color deepens in high light.

### Propagation

- Choose a well-drained medium with an EC of 0.75 to 0.80 mmhos and a pH of 5.6 to 5.9.
- Open boxes immediately upon arrival. Stick cuttings within 12 to 24 hours of arrival. Cuttings can be stored overnight, if necessary, at 45 to 50°F (7 to 10°C).
- Soil temperature should be maintained at 68 to 74°F (20 to 23°C) until roots are visible.
- Avoid over-application of mist in propagation.
- Once roots are visible, the media should be kept moderately wet and never saturated.
- Begin fertilization with 75 to 100 ppm N when roots become visible.
- As the rooted cuttings develop, appropriate moisture stress, high light and moderate air temperatures will reduce the need for chemical plant growth regulators (PGRs).
- A B-Nine application at 1,500 to 2,500 ppm applied as a spray 10 to 12 days after sticking is effective in reducing stem elongation.
- Electric Lime, Henna, Indian Summer and Mint Mocha Coleus do not require pinching during propagation. However, to improve branching and habit for 6-in. (15-cm) and larger containers, plants can be pinched 5 to 7 days before transplanting.
- Coleus rooted cuttings should be ready for transplanting 21 to 24 days after sticking.

### Growing On to Finish

#### Media

Use a well-drained, disease-free, soilless medium with a pH of 5.8 to 6.0.

#### Temperature

Nights: 60 to 70°F (16 to 21°C)

Days: 75 to 85°F (24 to 29°C)

- Cool night temperatures will extend crop time dramatically.
- Light
- Keep light intensities at 4,000 to 10,000 f.c. (40,000 to 100,000 Lux).
- Extremely low light levels result in poor branching, stem stretch and poor foliage color.

#### Watering

Allow the media to dry slightly between watering but any wilt should be avoided.

## Fertilizer

- Use constant feed with a balanced fertilizer at 150 to 200 ppm.
- Leach regularly to avoid the buildup of soluble salts.

## Pinching

Pinch plants 7 to 14 days after transplanting, as needed, to improve basal branching. A 4-in. (10-cm) crop can be produced with no pinch.

## Controlling Growth

- Use high light and recommended temperatures to control growth and produce the best possible habit.
- For large containers (1 gallon and larger), Coleus will generally not require any PGR applications during production.
- For smaller pots (4 to 6 in./10 to 15 cm), PGRs are recommended.
- A high-volume Bonzi drench at 0.5 to 2.0 ppm applied when the crop is two-thirds of finish size is effective in reducing stem elongation late in the production cycle.
- A Cycocel (1,000 to 1,500 ppm) and B-Nine (2,500 to 3,500 ppm) tank mix applied 1 to 3 times, or Sumagic (5 to 10 ppm) applied as a spray, are both effective.
- Henna, Electric Lime and Mint Mocha are vigorous plants similar to other sun coleus varieties (Florida Sun Jade, Saturn, etc.). Indian Summer is slightly more compact.
- These recommendations for plant growth regulators should be used only as general guidelines. Growers must trial all chemicals under their particular conditions.

## Common Problems

Problem: Plant collapse

Cause: Wet media for an extended period (*Pythium*)

Problem: Excessive vegetative growth

Cause: High ammonia concentration in the soil; Over-fertilization under low light conditions; Low light and over-watering; Wet media

Problem: Poor branching

Cause: Low fertilization; Lack of nitrogen; Late pinch

Problem: Stretched plants

Cause: Low light; Late transplanting

Problem: Chlorosis

Cause: Nitrogen deficiency; Low night temperatures

## Culture Information

	STAGE 1	STAGE 2	STAGE 3	STAGE 4	Finishing
Crop Time					* see table below
Temp :					
Soil					
Night					
Day					
Moisture					
Light (fc.)					
Fertilizer :					
Rate (ppm.)					
Form					
Frequency					
Soil PH					
Soil EC (mmhos/cm)					
Plant growth regulators					

Finishing Programs			
Container Size	Season	Plants/Container	Crop Time (weeks)
10" Pot	Spring	3-4	8-11
4" Pot	Spring	1	5-7
6" Pot	Spring	1-2	6-8