

Botanical Name: Coleus hybridus (Solenostemon scutellarioides)

Common Name: Coleus

Type of Plant: dicot: perennial Family Labiatae

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape A shrubby, upright perennial with widely varied, colorful foliage and form; widely used as a houseplant or shade bedding plant

Height to 2 ft. Spread to 2 ft. Growth Rate rapid

Environment:

Exposure in/outdoors likes bright light indoors, prefers shade outside

Soil likes a well drained, amended soil or a standard houseplant mix

Hardiness tender to frost, but used as a spring annual in all zones

Morphology:

Leaves pinnate, 2-4" long, various colors from purple to red, yellow and pink along with various variegation patterns; some forms scalloped, lobed

Flowers terminal spikes of pale blue flowers, best if pinched off whenever they form

Fruit small capsule

Propagation: seed, herbaceous stem cuttings taken at any time

Usage: popular houseplant now being widely used as a bedding plant in shaded beds, tropical areas, usually as mass plantings; will overwinter in mild areas but most often used as a warm season annual

Landscape Care:

Watering prefers regular watering, not drought tolerant

Fertilizing likes regular feeding with a high nitrogen fertilizer

Pruning pinch regularly to encourage bushiness, remove unsightly flowers

Pests/Diseases whitefly, mealybug, scale - very attractive to indoor pests

Other "indicator plant" for indoor insect pests

Origin: Tropical Asia