Year of the Coleus 2027

Coleus is a colorful foliage plant grown for colorful leaves in sun, shade, garden beds and containers. This guide explains the basic types of coleus, notable seed-grown and vegetative series, and the light, soil, water and maintenance practices that help coleus thrive.

Coleus is the ornamental foliage plant that makes shade—and now many sunny gardens—look intentionally designed. The modern ornamental crop is grown for leaves rather than flowers, with patterns that can look painted, veined, ruffled, scalloped, or quilted in chartreuse, burgundy, copper, rose, red, cream, and nearly black. Botanically, coleus belongs to the mint family, Lamiaceae, which explains its square stems.

Anyone gardening with coleus should be aware of the sunlight reaching their intended planting area then match the plant to the light.





