

Wizard[®] Coleus

Heat Is Heaven For This Non-flowering Plant!

- Dwarf and compact, the **Wizard** series has very colorful, medium-large leaves, making it an excellent choice for landscape and container plantings.
- Uniform and basal-branching with a late flowering habit that delays seed setting, extending their landscape value.
- Nearly “non-flowering,” meaning no dead-heading and excellent heat tolerance.
- Eye-catching in mass plantings, baskets and containers.
- Reaches 10 to 12 in. (25 to 30 cm) tall.
- Low maintenance requirements make **Wizard** ideal for commercial landscape use.
- Plant with other shade-loving plants for striking flowerbeds.
- Great for mix containers – won’t take over similar vegetative coleus.

Solenostemon scutellarioides

Approximate Seed Count: 100,000 S./oz. (3,500 S./g)

Plug Production

Stage 1 – Time of radicle emergence (4 to 5 days)

- Soil temperature 72 to 75°F (22 to 24°C).
- Keep media evenly moist, but not saturated.
- Do not cover or bury seed.
- Light is not necessary for germination until radicle emergence.
- Soil pH should be 5.5 to 5.8 and soluble salts (EC) less than 0.75 mmhos/cm (2:1 extraction).
- Coleus is very sensitive to high salts – particularly high ammonium – during germination.
- Keep ammonium levels less than 10 ppm.

Stage 2 – Stem and cotyledon emergence (10 days)

- Soil temperature 72 to 75°F (22 to 24°C).
- Reduce moisture levels once radicle emergence occurs. Allow the soil to dry out slightly before watering for best germination and rooting.
- Keep soil pH at 5.5 to 6.2 and an EC less than 1.0 mmhos/cm.
- Keep ammonium levels less than 10 ppm.
- Begin fertilizing with 50 to 75 ppm N from 14-0-14 or a calcium/potassium nitrate feed once cotyledons are fully expanded.

- Alternate feed with clear water. Feed between 2 to 3 clear irrigation.
- Irrigate early in the day so foliage is dry by nightfall to prevent diseases.

Stage 3 – Growth and development of true leaves (14 to 21 days)

- Soil temperature 68 to 70°F (20 to 21°C).
- Allow the soil to dry thoroughly between irrigations but avoid excessive wilting to promote root growth and control shoot growth.
- Maintain soil pH at 5.5 to 5.8 and an EC less than 1.0 mmhos/cm.
- Increase feed to 100 to 150 ppm N from 20-10-20, alternating with 14-0-14 or other calcium/potassium nitrate fertilizer.
- Fertilize every 2 to 3 irrigations.
- Slower-growing colors may need more frequent feeding to get desired height.
- Use temperature differential (DIF) whenever possible, especially the first 2 hours after sunrise, to control plant height.
- A-Rest, B-Nine and Bonzi are effective on coleus. Always follow label recommendations.

Stage 4 – Plants ready for transplanting or shipping (7 days)

- Soil temperature 60 to 62°F (16 to 17°C).
- Allow soil to dry thoroughly between irrigations.
- Maintain soil pH at 5.5 to 5.8 and an EC less than 0.75 mmhos/cm.
- Fertilize with 14-0-14 or calcium/potassium nitrate feed at 100 to 150 N as needed.

Growing On To Finish Temperature

- Night: 62 to 65°F (17 to 18°C)
- Day: 70 to 75°F (21 to 24°C)

Light

Provide shade if over 5,000 f.c. (50,000 Lux).

Media

Use a well-drained, disease-free soil-less medium with a medium initial nutrient charge and a pH of 5.5 to 6.0.

Fertilization

- Fertilize every other irrigation with 15-0-15 alternating with 20-10-20 at 150 to 200 ppm nitrogen.
- Maintain medium electrical conductivity around 1.0 mmhos/cm (using 1:2 extraction).
- Coleus are low to moderate feeders. Excessive feed can lead to dull coloration and decreased vigor.

Controlling Height

- Once plants are rooted to the sides of the containers, they can be allowed to wilt prior to irrigation to provide some height control.
- Height can also be controlled by with-holding fertilizer, especially phosphorus and ammonium-form nitrogen.
- Coleus are responsive to day/night DIF and are shorter with a negative DIF.
- A-Rest, B-Nine and Bonzi are effective at controlling height on coleus.

Post Production Care

Temperature

- Night: 62 to 65°F (17 to 18°C)
- Day: 70 to 75°F (21 to 24°C)
- Optimal conditions may be difficult to maintain, especially if plants are displayed outside.
- Using a negative DIF will help keep the plants short and of high quality.

Light

- Coleus will tolerate shade to full sun. Shady locations are recommended for retail display.
- Plants will stretch under low light.
- Plants may get leaf burn under high light intensity.

Common Problems

- Insects:** Aphids, Mealy bugs, White flies
Diseases: *Alternaria*, *Botrytis*, *Verticillium*
Other: Excessive internode elongation under low light

Wizard® Coleus Crop Schedule & Uses

(Crop Schedule In Weeks)

Sow to Transplant (512 plugs)	Stage 1: 4-5 days Stage 2: 10 days Stage 3: 14-21 days Stage 4: 7 days
Transplant to Flower (4-in./10-cm. pot or 36 tray)	8 to 10 weeks

Note: Growers should use the information presented here as a starting point. Crop times will vary depending on the climate, location, time of year and greenhouse environmental conditions.

Visit PanAmSeed.com today to check out the complete line of terrific products from PanAmerican Seed.

PanAmerican Seed

PanAmerican Seed Co.
622 Town Road, West Chicago, Illinois, USA 60185-2698
630 231-1400 Fax: 630 231-3609 www.panamseed.com