

Coleus

Sowing Indoors (to get a head start):

- For best results use sterile, disease free and weed free soil to start your seedlings.
- Coleus seeds can be planted year round indoors.
- Sow indoors, at any time, in pots or trays of moist seedling starter, just covering the seed.
- Provide the tray with humidity by placing a plastic covering over the tray and place in a warm area out of direct sunlight.
- Germination occurs in 10 to 21 days.
- Remove the plastic covering and continue to grow keeping the soil moist.
- When 2 sets of true leaves have appeared, transplant into small pots and keep protected from the elements until they are large enough to transplant into the garden or a large pot for an indoor plant.

Sowing Outdoors:

- Not recommended.

Transplanting in the Garden:

- For best results use sterile, disease free and weed free soil to start your seedlings.
- Outdoor plants should be hardened-off and planted out in a warm, sunny spot or container.
- Coleus prefers rich, well-draining soil. Compact soil can cause root rot.
- Dig a hole approximately 20 to 20cm deep and twice as wide as the root ball.
- Add some slow release fertiliser into the hole before adding the seedling.
- It is important to note that Coleus do not do well with frost, so if you are planting out during cooler months plant them into a container and keep the plants indoors.
- Water when the top 5 cm of soil is dry – over watering can cause root rot.

Growing Tips

- Pinch out the growing tip when plants are 20cm high, to encourage bushy growth.
- Coleus can be grown as a house plant in a container. Place it by a window that receives bright, indirect light.
- Water when the top 5 cm of soil is dry – over watering can cause root rot.
- If planting into a container, use a good quality potting soil that contains organic matter.
- Prune your Coleus when they are about 15cm tall to create a bushy plant and prevent the plant getting “leggy”.