

COLEUS, PAINTED LEAVES



Coleus is one of the few common members of the square-stemmed mint family, along with bugle-weed (*Ajuga*) and common salvia that do not exude a fragrance from their leaves. *Coleus* is Greek for sheath, in reference to the anthers being united by their filaments.

Botanical Name *Solenostemon scutellaroides*

Ethylene Sensitivity Yes

Storage Temperature 50-65°F

Storage Time 3 days

Purchasing Hints Compact plants with good leaf coloration are most desirable.

Special Concerns *Coleus* is sensitive to temperatures below 45-50°F. Some cultivars are sensitive to the air pollutant, sulfur dioxide. However, when plants are held for brief time periods at 55°F prior to exposure to this pollutant, less injury is noted. If grown in medium to heavy shade, frequent pinching should encourage branching and help reduce leggy or spindly growth. Degree of coloration in leaves will vary greatly by light and nutrient levels, as well as by cultivar.

Additional Information Display under high light levels to maintain color. *Coleus* are acceptable as an indoor potted plant for six to nine weeks if held under 150 to 300 foot-candles of light.