

# IN THE YARD: Coleus

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Indian Summer is among the relatively new coleus varieties that do well in full sun.

Plant coleus for their foliage through early summer. Older coleus varieties are better suited for shady places, said LSU horticulturist Allen Owings.

These are usually propagated from seed and include the shorter, smaller-growing Rainbow and Wizard series. The Kong series has big foliage and looks like a sun coleus, but it's a shade coleus. A new coleus for shade is the seed-propagated Versa series, Owings said.

New varieties labeled "sun" coleus may be sold at garden centers. Most of these are propagated by stem cuttings and include the Solar series. Other popular varieties include Indian Summer, New Orleans Red, which is a former Louisiana Select plant, and the Mississippi Medallion coleus called Mississippi Summer Sun.

Texas A&M University started the coleus revolution about 10 years ago with the promotion of Plum Parfait and Burgundy Sun. The Solar series of coleus, especially those with dark red foliage, and the Florida Sun series have been doing well in LSU AgCenter trials, Owings said.

