



10 Great Coleus (and there are dozens more to choose from)



1. 'Solar Sunrise'



2. 'Alabama Sunset'



3. 'Saturn'



4. 'Black Magic'



5. 'Christmas Candy'

 **Quick Tip**

In general, coleus responds well to pinching off the tips of branches. For each tip you pinch, two new side shoots will grow. Keep pinching away, and you'll get a seriously bushy plant.

• **Kong coleus**, named for their supersize leaves, are exceptions to this rule. Pinching the tips of them reduces vigor and leaf size, which defeats the purpose of planting these monsters.

Coleus fits right in with the South's increasing appetite for hot, cheery, assertive colors that stand up to heat and humidity.

Recipe for Success

• **WHAT COLEUS LIKES**
Coleus prefers fertile, moist soil and likes sun or shade. Water regularly during hot, dry weather to keep it from wilting. Feed plants every two weeks with a liquid 20-20-20 fertilizer. Coleus thrives in hot weather, but one surprise you'll notice is that its colors will deepen in fall.

• **LOVE THE SUN**
Many older kinds, such as Wizard coleus, fade

and burn in full sun. Save them for shade. Newer types, such as the Florida Sun, Solar, Stained Glassworks, and Sunlover coleus, tolerate both sun and shade. A good way to determine whether you are getting a sun-tolerant coleus is to look for the words "sun coleus" on the tag.

• **MIX IT UP**
Coleus certainly can hold its own as a solo performer. But don't hesitate to mix it with other plants in a large

container. Shrubby selections (up to 36 inches tall), such as 'Aurora,' 'Henna,' 'Redhead,' 'Saturn,' and 'Alabama Sunset,' work well as centerpieces. Combine them with cascading plants, such as lantana, ivy, verbena, and yellow creeping Jenny. Use trailing types, such as Ducksfoot coleus, to tumble from hanging baskets, window boxes, and the edges of large pots.



6. 'Aurora'



7. 'Orange King'



8. 'Appaloosa'



9. 'Tilt-a-Whirl'



10. 'Kiwi Fern'