

# Coleus Fairway, Superfine Rainbow

Crop	Coleus
Series	Fairway, Superfine Rainbow
Botanical name	<i>Solenostemon hybrida</i>
Plant type	Annual
Seed type	Raw
Seed count	3,500 seeds / gr.
Germination	25°C - 5-7 days light favored
Growing	20°C
Optimum pH	5.8-6.2

## Plug Culture: 4 weeks (288 cell tray)

**Stage 1** (days 1-6) Sow seed into a sterile and well-drained media with a pH between 5.5 and 6.5. Coleus is very sensitive to high salts, particularly high ammonium. Provide a soil temperature of 21-24°C. Apply a light coat of vermiculite to maintain sufficient moisture but not too heavy as seeds need light to germinate.

**Note:** Coleus is a facultative short day plant so to delay pre-mature flower formation, subject the seedlings to a long photoperiod (13 hours or more).

**Stage 2** (days 7-13) Reduce the moisture level once radicle emergence occurs. Allowing the soil to dry out slightly before watering provides the best germination and rooting. Fertilize seedlings with 50 ppm nitrogen once per week to maintain strong growth. Coleus is sensitive to strong sunlight at this stage.

**Stage 3** (days 14-21) Drop the temperature to 20-21°C. Allow the soil to dry thoroughly between irrigations but avoid excessive wilting to promote root growth and control shoot growth. Fertilize seedlings with 100-150 ppm nitrogen. Use negative DIF\* whenever

possible, especially the first 2 hours after sunrise, to control plant height.

**Stage 4** (days 22-28) Lower the temperature to 16-18°C for 7 days to tone the seedlings. Fertilize as needed to maintain strong growth.

## Transplant to finish: 6-9 weeks

**Media:** A sterile and well-drained media high in organic matter.

**Fertilizer:** Feed with 100-150 ppm nitrogen as needed to maintain strong growth. It is important to supply sufficient amounts of potassium in the fertilizer for good foliage color. Coleus is a moderate feeder and excessive feed can lead to dull coloration and decreased vigor.

**Temperature:** Maintain a day temperature of 21-24°C with a night temperature of 15-18°C.

**Lighting:** Provide a photoperiod greater than 13 hours after transplanting to prevent premature flower formation.

**Growth retardant:** Culture, using environmental controls is the best option and negative DIF\* is effective. If the plants begin to bolt apply plant growth regulator is one of option.

\*DIF is the difference between day temperature and night temperature which can affect plant height. In the natural world, positive DIF (when daytime temperature is higher than nighttime temperature) is common, however if this difference is made smaller, or in some cases negative DIF (nighttime temperature is higher than daytime temperature), plant height can be suppressed.

**Disease:** pythium, rhizoctonia, botrytis.

**Pests:** aphids, whitefly, leaf miners and mites whitefly, leaf miners and mites

**Schedule:** Coleus is sold for its colorful foliage and plants can be sold as soon as the plants reach market size.

Container	Variety	Seedling	Finish
Cell pack	Fairway	4 weeks	5weeks
10 cm	Rainbow	4 weeks	8 weeks

*All information given is intended for general guidance only and may have to be adjusted to meet individual needs. Cultural details are based on Asian conditions such as in Japan and Sakata cannot be held responsible for any crop damage related to the information given herein. Always follow manufacturer's label instructions. Testing a few plants prior to treating the entire crop is best.*