The Flower Bin
Garden Center & Nursery & Gift House

1805 Nelson Road
Longmont, CO 80501
Phone: 303-772-3454
www.theflowerbin.net

Watermelon Coleus

Solenostemon scutellarioides 'Watermelon'



Watermelon Coleus foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 20 inches

Spread: 22 inches

Spacing: 14 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Description:

From sun to shade, this humidity loving, mounded variety adds a bright and cheery vibe to hanging baskets, containers and garden beds; bright pink leaves are edged in lime green; leaves mature to deep rose in warmer climates; low maintenance

Ornamental Features

Watermelon Coleus' attractive serrated heart-shaped leaves remain hot pink in color with distinctive lime green edges throughout the year on a plant with a mounded habit of growth.

Landscape Attributes

Watermelon Coleus is an herbaceous annual with a mounded form. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant. The flowers of this plant may actually detract from its ornamental features, so they can be removed as they appear. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Watermelon Coleus is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting
- Hanging Baskets

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Planting & Growing

Watermelon Coleus will grow to be about 20 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 22 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 14 inches apart. Although it's not a true annual, this fast-growing plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

This plant performs well in both full sun and full shade. However, you may want to keep it away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. It requires an evenly moist well-drained soil for optimal growth, but will die in standing water. This plant should not require much in the way of fertilizing once established, although it may appreciate a shot of general-purpose fertilizer from time to time early in the growing season. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone over the growing season to conserve soil moisture. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. It can be propagated by cuttings; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Watermelon Coleus is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor containers and hanging baskets. It can be used either as 'filler' or as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, depending on the height and form of the other plants used in the container planting. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.