



# Color Clouds™ Hottie Coleus Solenostemon scutellarioides 'Hottie'

Hardiness Zone: 9b

Other Names: Flame Nettle, Painted Nettle

Group/Class: Color Clouds Series

## **Description:**

This variety produces bright, lime green leaves with highly contrasting hot pink veins and blotches; mature leaves display burgundy highlights; leaf color is dependent on amount of sunshine; great for gardens, containers and mixed borders

#### **Ornamental Features**

Color Clouds Hottie Coleus' attractive serrated pointy leaves emerge chartreuse in spring, turning lime green in color with distinctive hot pink veins and tinges of burgundy the rest of the year on a plant with an upright spreading habit of growth.



Color Clouds Hottie Coleus foliage Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Color Clouds Hottie Coleus Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

# **Landscape Attributes**

Color Clouds Hottie Coleus is an herbaceous evergreen perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

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. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Color Clouds Hottie Coleus is recommended for the following landscape applications;



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

### **Planting & Growing**

Color Clouds Hottie Coleus will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 18 inches apart. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 5 years. As an evegreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

This plant does best in partial shade to full shade. Keep it well 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. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. 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.

Color Clouds Hottie Coleus is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor containers and hanging baskets. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a canvas of foliage against which the larger thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.