

**Botanical name:**

**Genus: Coleus**

**Species: scutellarioides**

**Common Name(s):**

Painted needle,  
Poor mans croton

**Latin Family Name:** Lamiaceae

**English Family Name:** Mint

### The plant

**Origin; country or region:** Its native range is tropical and subtropical Asia to northern Australia

**Growth habit:** Coleus forms a mound up to 3 feet tall and 3 feet wide.

**Flower description:** Though it produces tiny blue to white flowers, they are insignificant and are often pinched off to conserve the plant's energy

**Blooming period/availability:**

**Leaf/Foliage Description:** They have some of the most stunningly colored foliage- in combinations of green, yellow, pink, red, maroon, etc

Coleus also have a wide variety of leaf sizes and overall shapes providing year round interest

### Usage:

**STRENGTHS/OPPORTUNITIES:**

Due to its attractive foliage it may be used as a tender annual

outdoors in a bed, a border for a fast

growing and spectacular addition

Plant coleus close together as bedding plants

Can be used in hanging planters or baskets

These plants are great for adding color in the garden (or home), especially in those dark, drab-looking corners

Propagate and grow easily

**WEAKNESS:**

Prone to some diseases due to watering



**TRIVIA:**

They're often called Painted Nettle or Flame Nettle but are actually a member of the mint family

### Care & Handling

**Longevity:** When growing coleus, keep in mind that these beauties can grow rapidly

**Water requirements:** Container plants also require more frequent watering than those grown in the garden

**Light:** This plant grows best in part shade, even tolerating full shade. Plants may wilt in full sun. Full shade may lead to leggy growth. If grown as a houseplant, it requires bright light

**Soil/Nutrition requirements:** This plant grows best in moist, rich, loose soil

Use a water based fertilizer

With more than 600 varieties of coleus (*Solenostemon scutellarioides*, formerly *Coleus blumei* and *Coleus x hybridus*)

**Special care/remarks:** Pinching the stem tips can make the plant bushier, if desired

These plants are not toxic to humans but sometimes people can get minor skin rashes due to the sap

