GrowerFacts

Coleus Lava

(*Solenostemon hybrida*)

A Ball FloraPlant Product

Propagation

- Choose a well-drained medium with an EC of 0.75 to 0.80 mmhos and a pH of 5.8 to 6.2.
- Open boxes immediately upon arrival. Stick cuttings within 12 to 24 hours of arrival. Cuttings can be stored overnight, if necessary, at 45 to 50°F (7 to 10°C)
- Soil temperature should be maintained at 68 to 73° F (20 to 23°C) until roots are visible.
- Avoid over-application of mist in propagation.
- Once roots are visible, the media should be kept moderately wet and never saturated.
- Begin fertilization with 75 to 100 ppm N when roots become visible.
- As the rooted cuttings develop appropriate moisture stress, high light and moderate air temperatures should eliminate the need for chemical plant growth regulators (PGR).
- **Lava Rose** Coleus does not require pinching during propagation. However, to improve branching and habit, plants can be pinched 5 to 7 days before transplanting.
- Coleus rooted cuttings should be ready for transplanting 21 to 24 days after sticking.

Growing On to Finish

Media

Use a well-drained, disease-free, soilless medium with a pH of 5.8 to 6.2.

Temperature

- Nights: 59 to 70°F (15 to 21°C)
- Days: 74 to 85°F (23 to 29°C)
- Cool night temperatures will extend crop time dramatically.

Light

- Keep light intensities at 4,000 to 10,000 f.c. (40,000 to 100,000 Lux).
- Extremely low light levels result in poor branching, stem stretch and poor foliage color.

Watering

Allow the media to dry slightly between watering but any wilt should be avoided.

Fertilizer

- Use constant feed with a balanced fertilizer at 150 to 200 ppm.
- Leach regularly to avoid the buildup of soluble salts.

Pinching

Pinch plants 7 to 14 days after transplanting, as needed, to improve basal branching. A 4-in. (10-cm) crop can be produced with no pinch, if necessary.

Controlling Growth

- Use high light and recommended temperatures to control growth and produce the best possible habit

- **Lava Rose** Coleus will generally not require any PGR applications during production. **Lava Rose** are extremely free-branching
- A Cycocel (1,000 to 1,500 ppm) and B-Nine (2,500 to 3,500 ppm) tank mix applied 1 to 3 times, or Sumagic (5 to 10 ppm) applied as a spray, are both effective
- These recommendations for plant growth regulators should be used only as general guidelines. Growers must trial all chemicals under their particular conditions

Common Problems

Insects: Aphids, whitefly.

Diseases: Rhizoctonia, Pythium

All **Lava Rose** Coleus cuttings are derived from culture and virus-indexed stock from the **Ball Certified Plants®** program.

Problem: Plant collapse

Causes: Wet media for an extended period (Pythium)

Problem: Early flowering

Causes: Extreme environmental stress (water, light, temperature, low fertility)

Problem: Excessive vegetative growth

Causes: High ammonia concentration in the soil; Over-fertilization under low light conditions; Low light and over-watering; wet media

Problem: Poor branching

Causes: Low fertilization; lack of nitrogen

Problem: Stretched plants

Causes: Low light

Problem: Chlorosis

Causes: Nitrogen deficiency; Low night temperatures

Aurora & Lava Coleus Crop Schedule & Uses

Unrooted cuttings:
4-In. (10-Cm) Pot 1 PP* 8 - 10 weeks
6-In. (15-Cm) Pot 1–2 PP* 9 - 11 weeks
10-In. (25-Cm) Pot 3–4 PP* 11 - 14 weeks

Rooted cuttings:
4-In. (10-Cm) Pot 1 PP* 5 - 7 weeks
6-In. (15-Cm) Pot 1–2 PP* 6 - 8 weeks
10-In. (25-Cm) Pot 3–4 PP* 8 - 11 weeks

*PP: Plants per pot or basket

Note: Growers should use the information presented here as a starting point. Crop times will vary depending on the climate, location, time of year and greenhouse environmental conditions.

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