

# Coleus

## Mezmerize™

# Culture Guide

*Solenostemon blumei*

**Product form:** Seed

**Containers:** Packs, Pints, Quarts, Gallons

**Habit:** Mounding

## Garden Specifications

**Garden height:** 14–18" (35–45 cm) tall

**Garden width:** 14–18" (35–45 cm) wide

**Exposure:** Full Sun–Part Shade

**USDA zone:** 10–11

**AHS zone:** 12–9

Mezmerize™ Lime Green



## Seed Germination

### Germination Stage 1/2

**Germination time:** 4 to 5 days

**Media temperature:** Day and night: 70–75 °F (21–24 °C)

**Chamber:** No

**Light:** Not required for germination

**Seed cover:** Yes

**Media EC:** SME EC: 0.9–1.3 mS/cm, Press/Squeeze Method EC: 1.4–2.0 mS/cm

**Moisture level:** Wet (level 4) until cotyledons are open.

**4 - WET:** Soil is dark brown but not shiny, no free water is seen at the surface of the soil, when pressed or squeezed water drips easily, and trays are heavy with a visible bend in the middle.

**Recommended tray size:** 288-cell plug tray

**Seeds per cell:** 1

### Germination Stage 3/4

#### Temperature

**Day:** 74–76 °F (23–24 °C)

**Night:** 68–70 °F (20–21 °C)

**Average daily temperature:** 70–72 °F (21–22 °C)

#### Lighting

**Light intensity:** 500–1000  $\mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$

**Day extension lighting:** Not necessary

**Day length response:** Day neutral

**Daily light integral (DLI):** 10–12  $\text{mol}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{d}^{-1}$

**Media:** pH 5.5–5.9

**Media EC:** SME EC: 0.9–1.3 mS/cm, Press/Squeeze Method EC: 1.4–2.0 mS/cm

**Fertilizers:** 125–175 ppm N

**Moisture level:** After radical emergence, alternate media between wet (level 4) and moist (level 3).

**3 - MOIST:** Soil is brown in color, strongly squeezing the soil will extract a few ... drops of water, and trays are light with no visible bend.

**4 - WET:** Soil is dark brown but not shiny, no free water is seen at the surface of the soil, when pressed or squeezed water drips easily, and trays are heavy with a visible bend in the middle.

**Pinching:** Optional

**Plant growth regulators (PGRs):** Generally should not be required. Florel® sprays can be used to substitute at rates of 300–500 ppm or B-Nine® WSG sprays can be used to reduce stem elongation with rates of 1,500–2,500 ppm. Plug grow time: 5–6 weeks

**Tech tip:** Coleus is sensitive to high salt levels and high ammonium levels. Use primarily Cal-Mag® Plus (calcium nitrate + magnesium nitrate) fertilizers in propagation to prevent unwanted stretch.

## Transplant to Finish

### Temperature

**Day:** 72–74 °F (22–23 °C)

**Night:** 64–66 °F (18–19 °C)

**Average daily temperature:** 68–70 °F (20–21 °C)

### Lighting

**Day extension lighting:** Not necessary

**Light intensity:** 1,200–1,600  $\mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$

**Day length response:** Day neutral

**Daily light integral (DLI):** 12–14  $\text{mol}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{d}^{-1}$

**Transplanting:** Transplant directly into the finished container. Place the rooting media slightly below the level of media in the container. Make sure that the root ball is covered and that the plug is situated in the center of the pot.

**Media pH:** 5.9–6.2

**Media EC:** SME EC: 0.9–1.3 mS/cm, PourThru EC: 1.4–2.0 mS/cm

**Fertilizer:** 125–175 ppm N

**Pinching:** Optional, 7–10 days after transplant.

**Plant growth regulators (PGRs):** Growth regulators are not generally required. Sprays of B-Nine WSG® at 2,500–5,000 ppm or Florel® at 300 ppm can be utilized to control growth and provide an alternative to a manual pinch. A Bonzi® drench can also be utilized starting at 0.5–2.0 ppm with various environmental factors taken in to account. Chocolate Lime and Lime Green are more vigorous than others and may require an application of a growth regulator.

**Tech tip:** Mezmerize coleus are selected for heat tolerance, late flowering, and excellent branching. Although not necessary, growing under long days (14 hours or above) will delay flowering and improve plant build and foliage quality. Low light levels with warm temperatures will promote stretching.

**Moisture level:** Media should be allowed to dry between irrigations. Alternate between moisture level 2 and 4.

**2 - MEDIUM:** Soil is light brown in color, no water can be extracted from soil, and soil will crumble apart.

**4 - WET:** Soil is dark brown but not shiny, no free water is seen at the surface of the soil, when pressed or squeezed water drips easily, and trays are heavy with a visible bend in the middle.

**Common diseases:** *Botrytis*, *Alternaria*, powdery mildew

**Common pests:** Aphids, whiteflies

## Scheduling

SIZE	CROP TIME	PLANTS PER POT
Large Packs	4–5 weeks	1 ppp
1 Pint (4 inch)	4–5 weeks	1 ppp
1 Quart (4.5 to 5 inch)	4–5 weeks	1 ppp
1.25 to 2.5 Quart (5.5 to 6.5 inch, trade gallon)	6–7 weeks	1-2 ppp
2.5 to 6.0 gallon planter (12 to 14 inch)	10–11 weeks	3-5 ppp

Estimated finish crop time is from transplant of a 288-cell tray with 1 seedling per cell and finished at an average daily temperature (ADT) of 69 °F (20.5 °C).

## Example crop schedule for a 1.25-2.5 quart pot

WEEKS FROM TRANSPLANT	DESCRIPTION
2 weeks	Evaluate plants for growth control and apply B-Nine WSG® spray at rates of 2,500–5,000 ppm or Florel® at 300 ppm.
5 weeks	Evaluate plants for growth control and apply Bonzi® drench if needed to maintain habit and growth.
7 weeks	Finish



Mezmerize™ Chocolate Rose

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