

Garden Guide February



Feature Plant **Coleus**



With unusual colours and velvety texture, Coleus are an old favourite in cottage gardens! Coleus are a short lived perennial plant that are spectacular to see amongst other garden shrubs, they stand out due to their bright coloured variegated leaves with colours of apple green, to purple, burgundy, pink, red, cream & many more.

Traditionally a shade plant, modern varieties have been cultivated to stand sunnier spots in the garden and seeds or seedlings can be found at most garden stores. Depending on variety they can grow tall, shrubby or spread and are lovers of a lot of water.

Coleus are grown best with an organic fertiliser like Super Growth in either our liquid or pelletised form to get the best results. They are quick growing plants and can be easily propagated from cuttings.

Top Tip! If you want to introduce pollinators to your garden leave Coleus plants until they flower, this will encourage the Australian Blue Banded native bee to your garden!



Did You Know?

Banana is the Arabic word for 'finger'.

"The greatest gift of the garden is the restoration of the five senses".

Hanna Rion

Feature Product **Super Grass Lawn Fertiliser**



The secret to a lush green lawn!

Organic based lawn food & soil improver. Excellent results on all types of natural and hybrid turf and lawns. Easy to apply.

Available in 3kg, 12kg buckets and 15 & 25kg bags.



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What to Plant

Flowers

Cool Climate/Temperate

Ageratum	Alyssum	Cleome
Cyclamen	Iceland Poppy	Linaria
Malope	Marigold	Pansy
Schizanthus	Stock	Verbena
Viola	Vinca	Wallflower

Subtropical

Ageratum	Aster	Balsam
Celosia	Cockscomb	Coleus
Gomphrenan	Impatiens	Marigold
Salvia	Sunflower	Torenia
Vinca	Zinnia	

Tropical

Balsam	Celosia	Coxscomb
Coleus	Gomphrena	Marigold
Petunia	Salvia	Sunflower
Torenia	Vinca	

How to Improve Clay Soil

Clay soil is sticky, heavy and more challenging than regular loamy soil. Clay soils drain slowly so can stay saturated for long periods after rain. When clay dries, it usually forms a cracked, hard surface. There are benefits to a clay soil however, which are that it can hold nutrients and moisture better than other types of soil. **With a little bit of work, a clay soil can be amended to make it humus rich and fertile.**

PH TESTING Clay soils can be rich in nutrients but if you have the soil too alkaline or acidic, the plants won't be able to take advantage of these nutrients. A home test kit is all you need to check whether your pH is neutral. If your soil is too alkaline then the addition of composts, manures or mulch will assist. Too acid, then some lime, dolomite or poultry manure will help.

ORGANIC MATTER Organic matter is one of the key ingredients in amending a clay soil. Organic matter helps with drainage as well as adding nutrients and improving the soil's texture. It is important to wait until your clay soil is fairly dry before working with it so you don't damage the structure of the soil. Then get a garden fork or rotary hoe and rip the soil to de-compact it and let it aerate.

Add your chosen organic matter to the garden bed, working it into the top 4-6 inches of the soil. Organic matter sources can be composted chicken manure products (Super Booster, Blood & Bone Plus or Super Growth) or other forms of compost, green manures, animal manures and aged lawn clippings and leaves.

LIQUID CLAY BREAKER An important step is using a liquid clay breaker like Super Cal, a fast-acting concentrate delivering 100% available calcium. Just 1 litre of Super Cal is more effective than 20kg of Gypsum.

-  Don't forget that indoor plants need feeding too! Give your indoor plants a feed of Katek Neptune Seaweed concentrate and a little Super Booster fertiliser pellets!
-  Re-mulch all potted plants and trim back scraggly growth to encourage healthier, more shapely plant structures!
-  Try planting a mix of wildflowers or bee & butterfly friendly shrubs in your garden, you'll encourage more pollination & beneficial insects too!
-  Regular deep watering 1-2 times a week during the hotter months is more effective than a little bit every day.

Super Chicken's Top Tips



Vegetables/Herbs

Cool Climate/Temperate

Asian Greens	Broccoli	Cauliflower
Garlic	Leek	Lettuce
Spring Onions	Spinach	Silverbeet

Subtropical

Capsicum	Beetroot	Beans
Capsicum	Cabbage	Lettuce
Silver Beet	Sweetcorn	Tomato

Tropical

Broccoli	Cauliflower	Capsicum
Chillies	Cabbage	Lettuce