Evaluation of Ornamental Coleus for Landscaping of Shady Areas

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Abstract—There is a strong desire amongst people to have colour in the shady areas of their landscapes. But shade-loving plants generally are not richly or brightly coloured. Ornamental coleus is an inconspicuous flower bearing ornamental plants which can act as a colorful option for shady landscape. Ornamental coleus is a promising ornamental foliage plant which provides a bold texture and a thick density for shady landscape. With this background, collection, conservation and evaluation of different ornamental coleus types / varieties carried out at ICAR-Central Coastal Agricultural Research Institute, Goa. Twenty four different types / varieties of ornamental coleus have been collected, maintained and evaluated for their suitability for landscape use. Significant differences were observed among different coleus types / varieties for various morphological and quality parameters. Plant height, number of leaves, number of branches, Stem girth, Length of leaf with petiole, Petiole length, leaf width, Length of leaf without petiole varied from 42.00 cm (Juicy Lucy) -89.67 cm (Eruption), 24.89 (Gay Delight) -72.00 (Trailing Queen), 3.00 (Mahogany Giant) -8.67 (Eruption), 0.563 cm (Blusher) - 0.817 cm (Eruption), 11.03 cm (Tilt a Whirl) - 18.83cm (Grape expectations), 2.07 cm (Pistachio Nightmare) - 6.00 cm (Eruption), 5.50 cm(Trailing Queen)-10.83 cm(Grape expectations), 8.33cm(Tilt a Whirl) - 14.78 cm (Grape expectations) respectively. Different ornamental coleus used in the present study exhibited an incredible range of diversity for various traits and it could be recommended to function for various purposes in landscaping like beds, borders, hedges, planters, hanging baskets, vertical gardens or containers.

Keywords—Coleus, Colour, Shade, Landscaping, Purpose.

I. INTRODUCTION

Ornamental coleus is an inconspicuous flower bearing ornamental plant that add colour to your shady landscape. Coleus is the common name for Solenostemon scutellarioides syn. Plectranthus scutellarioides, a group of ornamental plants with large colourful leaves. It is native to tropical Asia, Africa and Australia and belongs to the Family Lamiaceae (Labiatae) and Genus Solenostemon. It is grown mostly for the impact of its foliage and provides a gallant texture and a thick density in the shady landscape. Coleus has become a very popular house and garden plant prized for their colourful foliage (Erica and Allen, 2000). Coleus is versatile in nature and thrives in hot and humid conditions and can be used for accenting various landscapes and provides year-round colour (Jean., 2012). It can be best grown as an indoor potted plant, container plant, topiary and a specimen in various landscape projects. Ornamental coleus can easily be propagated by stem cuttings (Patel., 2013; Jill M., 2012). The brilliant foliage of this classic plant light up your garden, brightens the shady spots and can make a dramatic statement in the landscape. People are not aware of the selection and landscape performance of different varieties of ornamental coleus. Information on the choice, growth attributes and landscape performance of different varieties of ornamental coleus has been rather scanty. Hence a study on collection, conservation and evaluation of different ornamental coleus were conducted at ICAR - Central Coastal Agricultural Research Institute, Ela, Old Goa. The objective of the study was to evaluate different cultivars of ornamental coleus based on various landscape performance criteria and to identify cultivars that could be used for various purposes in landscaping like Beds, Borders, Edging, Hedges, Planters, Mass planting, Hanging baskets, Vertical gardens, Container plantings and General Garden Use.

II. MATERIAL AND METHOD

Twenty four types / varieties of ornamental coleus were collected, and evaluated for their landscape performance. The different types / varieties of ornamental coleus used in the present study include

- 1. Gold giant
- 2. Pistachio nightmare

- 3. Miss Monahan
- 4. Antique
- 5. Mahogany Giant
- 6. Juicy Lucy
- 7. Grape expectations
- 8. Private Dancer
- 9. Eruption
- 10. Trailing Queen
- 11. Apple mint
- 12. Kong Scarlet
- 13. Dare Devil
- 14. Gay Delight
- 15. Blusher
- 16. Kong Jr
- 17. Tilt a whirl
- 18. Wizard Mosaic
- 19. Electric lime
- 20. Blackberry Waffle
- 21. Green Halo
- 22. Freckles
- 23. Finger Paint and
- 24. Indian Summer Coleus

The different ornamental coleus types / varieties were assessed for their suitability for landscape use. It was tested for various morphological parameters such as Plant Height, Number of Leaves, Number of Branches, Stem girth, Length of leaf with petiole, Petiole length, leaf width and Length of leaf without petiole. The experimental design adopted was Randomized block design with three replications. Data recorded on various morphological parameters were statistically analysed following procedures as described by Panse and Sukhatme (1978).

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Significant variation was noticed among different coleus cultivars used in the present study for various morphological and leaf quality parameters and the data is presented in Table 1, 2 and 3. Plant Height, Number of Leaves, Number of Branches, Stem girth, Length of leaf with petiole, Petiole length, leaf width, Length of leaf without petiole varied from 42.00cm (Juicy Lucy) - 89.67cm (Eruption), 24.89(Gay Delight) -72.00 (Trailing Queen), 3.00 (Mahogany Giant) - 8.67 (Eruption), 0.563cm (Blusher) -0.817cm (Eruption), 11.0cm (Tilt a Whirl) - 18.83cm (Grape expectations), 2.07cm (Pistachio Nightmare) - 6.00cm (Eruption), 5.50cm(Trailing Queen)-10.83cm (Grape expectations), 8.33 cm (Tilt a Whirl) - 14.78 cm (Grape expectations) respectively.

The distinctive features of various cultivars used in the present study are described below. The cultivar Gold giant used in the present study is a tall and sturdy coleus cultivar with broad, golden-green leaves with reddish-purple undersides. Stems and petioles are purple in colour and it makes for a great background plant in a pot or garden bed. It is a medium tall variety and is well suited for hedging purpose in shady areas. Miss Monahan is a sturdy coleus cultivar and has green leaves with magenta spot in the centres and purple undersides. Stems and petioles are purple in colour. It has a compact dense nature and hence suited for hanging basket. Variability in colouration in cultivar Antique used in the present study makes them virtually indistinguishable. Their scalloped leaves are chartreuse with deep maroon or purple flecking. Leaves are light purple underneath. Stem and petioles are also light purple in colour. Antique could be used for border planting since they are tall varieties. The cultivar Pistachio Nightmare has conspicuous bright green serrated leaves highlighted with a cream centre and speckled with radiant neon pink, yellow and brown with greenish undersides.. Stems and petioles are greenish white in colour.

TABLE 1
PLANT GROWTH CHARACTERISTICS OF DIFFERENT ORNAMENTAL COLEUS CULTIVARS UNDER WEST COAST ECOSYSTEM

	F LANT GROWTH CHARACTERISTICS OF DIFFERENT ORNAMIENTAL COLEUS CULTIVARS UNDER WEST COAST ECOSTSTEM								
	Treatments	Plant Height (1MAP)	Plant Height (3 MAP)	Plant Height (6 MAP)	No. of Leaves (1MAP)	No. of Leaves (3 MAP)	No. of Leaves (6 MAP)	No. of Branches (3 MAP)	No. of Branches (6 MAP)
1	Gold giant	11.227	49.111	82.333	4.960	31.000	47.000	4.667	5.333
2	Pistachio Nightmare	20.600	42.556	47.333	9.073	40.778	41.333	5.333	7.333
3	Miss Manohan	17.933	44.111	46.000	9.947	41.667	42.222	5.000	5.220
4	Antique	14.853	51.889	69.333	9.020	37.778	38.333	4.667	5.667
5	Mahogany Giant	16.733	40.222	66.333	7.103	17.778	27.333	2.333	3.000
6	Juicy Lucy	12.933	33.889	42.000	7.980	22.000	25.667	3.670	3.889
7	Grape Expectations	22.133	58.222	77.667	8.720	28.000	38.000	3.667	5.000
8	Private Dancer	18.933	45.444	62.000	7.573	26.667	32.444	3.333	4.333
9	Eruption	15.900	58.333	89.667	9.200	34.444	58.667	5.000	8.667
10	Trailing Queen	16.780	38.556	63.333	15.733	44.222	72.000	4.778	8.000
11	Apple Mint	12.713	40.111	61.000	10.467	29.333	35.889	4.667	5.333
12	Kong Scarlet	17.833	46.444	66.000	10.47	31.333	34.333	4.670	6.00
13	Daredevil	14.033	46.111	79.333	7.600	23.444	44.333	3.778	4.000
14	Gay Delight	10.933	36.444	51.333	4.600	17.667	19.444	2.889	3.667
15	Blusher	14.000	45.111	54.333	8.800	34.000	36.333	3.667	4.333
16	Kong Jr	11.220	47.444	64.000	6.100	30.667	35.333	3.889	5.000
17	Tilt a Whirl	10.773	34.111	54.667	9.667	25.444	29.333	3.333	3.556
18	Wizard Mosaic	20.867	42.778	48.000	9.407	38.000	40.333	5.289	7.667
19	Electric lime	10.967	36.556	54.667	4.700	17.000	18.667	2.800	3.667
20	Black berry waffles	22.467	58.333	79.333	8.787	28.556	37.333	3.736	5.667
21	Green Halo	12.567	34.111	47.667	8.073	24.000	25.000	3.667	3.944
22	Finger Paint	14.187	54.111	70.333	8.353	33.000	38.444	4.333	5.333
23	Indian Summer	13.833	46.778	74.333	7.367	21.667	45.667	3.944	4.500
24	Freckles	14.001	44.111	60.333	7.513	29.000	33.444	3.333	4.333
	SEm+_	0.548	2.431	4.785	0.474	3.499	3.715	0.497	0.627
	C.D at 5%	1.646	7.295	14.355	1.422	10.498	11.147	1.493	1.883

TABLE 2
STEM GIRTH AND LEAF LENGTH OF DIFFERENT ORNAMENTAL COLEUS CULTIVARS AT DIFFERENT MONTHS AFTER PLANTING

	STEM CIRCII	AND LEAF LENG	III OI DIII EKE	VI ORIVIERVIE	E COLLEGE C	CETTVIII I	DITTERENT	VIOIVIII MI IL	KILMITHIO	
	Treatments	Diameter of Stem (cm) (1 MAP)	Diameter of Stem (cm) (3 MAP)	Diameter of Stem (cm) (6MAP)	Leaf Length with stalk (1 MAP)	Leaf Length with stalk (3 MAP)	Leaf Length with stalk (6 MAP	Leaf Length without stalk(cm) 1 MAP	Leaf Length without stalk(cm) 3 MAP	Leaf Length without stalk(cm) 6 MAP
1	Gold giant	0.423	0.580	0.814	4.560	16.033	17.722	12.000	13.167	
2	Pistachio Nightmare	0.426	0.499	0.610	5.800	10.733	11.389	8.667	9.344	11.400
3	Miss Manohan	0.447	0.484	0.526	6.080	11.333	12.678	8.667	9.533	10.122
4	Antique	0.391	0.727	0.757	6.287	15.667	17.300	9.850	13.000	13.244
5	Mahogany Giant	0.470	0.539	0.743	7.087	16.056	16.233	11.583	12.656	13.467
6	Juicy Lucy	0.493	0.537	0.643	5.860	11.456	13.167	9.744	10.700	13.617
7	Grape Expectations	0.422	0.550	0.656	8.207	16.500	18.833	12.567	13.000	14.778
8	Private Dancer	0.404	0.507	0.593	7.373	16.611	17.333	11.450	12.444	13.000
9	Eruption	0.436	0.670	0.817	7.900	12.500	17.667	8.944	9.583	11.667
10	Trailing Queen	0.568	0.578	0.660	6.373	11.344	12.167	7.800	9.167	14.500
11	Apple Mint	0.505	0.543	0.613	4.667	15.667	15.856	13.056	13.167	14.000
12	Kong Scarlet	0.438	0.627	0.673	7.740	14.333	17.889	11.667	12.333	14.156
13	Daredevil	0.492	0.576	0.763	5.427	15.833	15.889	8.417	10.867	12.278
14	Gay Delight	0.413	0.484	0.660	4.333	12.111	14.833	9.283	10.389	12.367
15	Blusher	0.484	0.551	0.563	5.167	13.833	16.167	7.417	11.333	12.722
16	Kong Jr	0.520	0.543	0.620	4.513	15.067	15.833	12.267	13.056	13.500
17	Tilt a Whirl	0.491	0.561	0.567	4.867	10.033	10.556	7.611	7.667	12.750
18	Wizard Mosaic	0.470	0.482	0.643	8.800	9.356	14.567	5.770	10.533	11.167
19	Electric lime	0.410	0.414	0.672	4.367	12.389	15.000	10.444	12.500	12.667
20	Black berry waffles	0.407	0.583	0.671	8.380	17.000	19.056	10.417	13.200	15.000
21	Green Halo	0.412	0.500	0.633	5.807	11.511	12.833	9.800	10.867	10.917
22	Finger Paint	0.397	0.750	0.762	6.313	15.333	17.778	12.578	12.667	13.083
23	Indian summer	0.435	0.579	0.793	5.560	15.389	16.167	11.167	12.444	12.250
24	Freckles	0.311	0.550	0.623	4.313	10.333	12.778	8.578	9.667	10.083
	SEm+_	0.028	0.026	0.039	0.222	0.696	1.031	0.452	0.925	0.745
	C.D at 5%	0.086	0.078	0.118	0.667	2.090	3.095	1.357	2.777	2.236

TABLE 3
PETIOLE LENGTH, LEAF WIDTH AND LEAF STALK GIRTH OF DIFFERENT ORNAMENTAL COLEUS CULTIVARS AT DIFFERENT MONTHS AFTER PLANTING

	Treatments	Leaf stalk length (1 MAP)	Leaf stalk length (3 MAP)	Leaf stalk length (6 MAP)	Leaf Width (1 MAP)	Leaf Width (3 MAP)	Leaf Width (6 MAP)	Leaf stalk diameter (6 MAP)
1	Gold giant	0.510	4.033	4.333	2.730			0.277
2	Pistachio Nightmare	1.070	2.044	2.067	3.180	7.556	8.250	0.200
3	Miss Manohan	1.480	2.556	2.667	3.890	6.750	7.889	0.267
4	Antique	1.320	2.667	4.056	4.080	7.100	8.533	0.220
5	Mahogany Giant	1.440	2.767	3.400	3.570	7.750	8.278	0.203
6	Juicy Lucy	1.550	1.711	2.467	3.120	6.100	8.000	0.213
7	Grape Expectations	1.990	3.500	4.056	3.430	9.000	10.333	0.307
8	Private Dancer	1.450	4.167	4.333	2.980	9.000	10.300	0.300
9	Eruption	1.220	3.556	6.000	3.030	5.200	8.500	0.247
10	Trailing Queen	1.870	3.000	3.544	4.140	5.256	10.500	0.200
11	Apple Mint	1.770	2.500	2.800	3.760	7.211	9.750	0.260
12	Kong Scarlet	2.020	2.667	3.733	3.540	8.500	9.500	0.217
13	Daredevil	2.250	3.611	4.967	3.650	7.250	8.022	0.207
14	Gay Delight	1.722	2.030	2.467	3.390	5.750	6.800	0.660
15	Blusher	1.200	2.500	3.444	3.170	6.000	9.856	0.280
16	Kong Jr	1.130	2.778	2.800	2.100	7.789	8.750	0.190
17	Tilt a Whirl	1.260	2.367	2.944	2.780	7.500	7.956	0.243
18	Wizard Mosaic	1.670	1.767	1.87	3.610	7.000	7.500	0.240
19	Electric lime	1.210	1.978	2.633	3.250	6.350	7.000	0.257
20	Black berry waffles	0.820	3.733	4.389	2.870	8.250	10.556	0.307
21	Green Halo	0.530	1.733	1.967	2.770	6.267	7.500	0.247
22	Finger Paint	0.650	2.333	5.256	3.440	8.533	9.000	0.207
23	Indian summer	1.120	3.167	5.333	3.360	5.500	9.000	0.193
24	Freckles	1.780	2.400	2.810	3.290	5.150	6.100	0.216
	SEm+_	0.325	0.367	0.476	0.308	0.646	0.752	0.032
	C.D at 5%	0.977	1.102	1.429	0.926	1.939	2.257	0.097

Pistachio Nightmare could be planted in vertical gardens as they give bold texture because of its sharp contrast. It displays attractive leaf characteristics like fancy leaves and peculiar colouration. It also looks great in the ground or a container. Private Dancer has bright chartreuse or yellowish green leaves, heavily marked and finely sectored dark mahogany red to dark maroon red with purple leaf vein. Some leaf blades exhibit variable chimera depths, giving many intermediate colours, part pink and part green, and it is radically interrupted by lime or violet red to maroon red sectored and stripes. Leaves are purple underneath and stem is light purplish in colour. It could be used for close planting in garden beds. Juicy Lucy had wide, soft leaves of coppery-red or maroon centre are surrounded at the edge with a lacy greenish yellow pattern. Leaves are purple underneath. Stems and petioles are light purplish in colour. It can be planted in garden beds, pots and baskets and can be planted more densely. It is also suited for hanging basket because of its compact dense nature. Eruption is a medium tall variety and is suited as hedges in shady areas. They possessed appealing colouration. It has attractive small serrated pointy or toothed green coloured leaves with showy variegation of brown striations and tinges of lemon yellow with purple underneath. Stem is purple in colour. It has 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. Trailing Queen has deep redpink or magenta centre with a lacy green frilly border and a shock of hot pink in the centre of the textured leaf. Leaves curl upwards and have toothed margins. Stems and underside of the leaves are purple in colour. This is a vigorous type and can be planted in garden beds, pots, baskets etc and can be planted more densely.

Grape Expectations could be used for border planting because of its tall upright and mounding growth habit. It has concord grape purple or velvettish vine colour with a flash of violet-pink or magenta in the centre which extends up to the margin. Leaves are purple underneath and stems and petioles are greenish purple in colour. This lovely coleus has neat and unique scalloped edges and a very refined habit. It is an excellent choice for borders, mixed containers, garden beds, pots, baskets, etc. This "Grape Coloured Coleus" provides an amazing true vibrant solid colour to any design or planting. Mahogany Giant is a tall type and could be used for border planting. It has deep purple-black coloured foliage with purple underneath. Stem and petioles are purple in colour. It could be used for border planting since it is a tall variety. Apple Mint has green coloured leaves with brown spotted centre. Leaves are green underneath and stem and petioles are greenish in colour. Apple mint could be used in planters because of its gorgeous and elegant look. They had a uniform growth pattern and consistent colouration. Gay Delight has oval shaped chartreuse / lime green coloured leaves with nearly black dark purple or dark maroon venation with light green colour underneath. Stems and petioles are dark purple in colour.

Gay Delight could be used for container planting or in planters because of its dazzling and graceful look. It has a unique colour that gets immediate notice in any garden. The brilliant colours explode in sunny locations. Kong Scarlet Coleus has attractive small serrated pointed leaves which are scarlet brown in colour with distinctive lemon yellow edges throughout the year. Leaves are light green underneath. Stem and petioles are yellowish green in colour. Kong Scarlet is a tall type and could be used for border planting. Tilt a Whirl has distinctive rolled up or swirling circular leaves of gentle heather to mahogany brown colour with zig zag frilly edges tipped in lime or yellow colour and feathered centers and green veins. Leaves are light green underside and stems and petioles are greenish in colour. It is of dwarf, compact and dense nature and hence can be used for container planting and for interior decoration purpose. Tilt a whirl is a marvellous cultivar because of its distinctive leaf shape and compact nature. Daredevil is a medium tall type and is well appropriate as hedges in shady areas. They possessed appealing colouration and peculiar leaf pattern. Leaves curl upwards and have twisted and toothed margins. It has brownish centre with greenish yellow leaf margin. The undersides of the leaves are light green in colour and stems are greenish purple.

Kong Junior had an upright spreading habit of growth. It has dark brownish centre with greenish leaf margin. The undersides of the leaves are light green in colour and stems and petioles are light greenish in colour. They possess dazzling colouration in the foliage. It has relatively coarse texture. It can be used in garden beds, Container Planting, General Garden Use, Border Edging, Mass Planting, Hanging Baskets etc. Blusher has concord grape purple coloured leaves of rich texture with a flash of violet-pink or magenta in the vein which is restricted towards the centre. Leaves are purple underneath and stems and petioles are purplish in colour. It is a dwarf and compact type and can be used for container planting and for interior decoration purpose. Green Halo has bold greenish yellow large leaves blazed with a creamy white flash in the centre. Stem and petioles are greenish white in colour and leaves are light greenish white underneath. It has unique colour and patterns and suited for container planting. It performs well in landscapes, patio planters and mixed containers. Electric lime has lime green coloured toothed leaves with contrasting and prominent bright yellowish white spots and streaks all over and has distinct white leaf veins. Leaves are greenish with white spots underneath and stems and petioles are greenish white in colour. It could be used in planters because of its gorgeous and elegant look. They had a uniform growth pattern and consistent colouration. It can also be planted in garden beds, pots and baskets and can be planted more densely. It has stunning colour and unique leaf patterns. Its bright lemon-lime leaves electrify the shady areas of landscape. Freckles has bright yellowish

green leaves, speckled with maroon all over. This attractive plant tends to offer light greenish leaves in low light, but still maintains an distinctive beauty. It could be planted in vertical gardens as they give thick and bold texture because of its sharp contrast

Wizard Mosaic has bright chartreuse, heavily marked and finely sectored dark mahogany red to maroon red with a brilliant mix of the two shades and has a distinct purple vein. The underside of the leaves is green in colour and stem is light green in colour. Wizard mosaic could be planted in vertical gardens and they give bold texture because of its sharp contrast. They displayed attractive leaf characteristics like fancy leaves and bizarre colouration. Black berry waffles has deep purple-black or velvettish vine coloured and highly serrated or toothed foliage with grape vine colour underneath. Stem and petioles are dark purple in colour. It is a dazzling plant with deep purple colour and has a unique texture. It has a sturdy growth habit. It can be planted in garden beds, pots and baskets. It is excellent for the landscape and for mixed containers. Indian Summer Coleus has gorgeous toothed and pointed leaves with distinctive dark pinkish red vein and tinges of green and pink. It has an upright spreading habit of growth with striking colours and patterns. Indian Summer Coleus is recommended for different landscape applications like Hanging Baskets, General Garden Use, Container Planting, Edging purpose, Mass Planting, etc. Finger paint has burgundy and lime-yellow bicoloured foliage. Irregular burgundy splashes on lime green to yellow leave make this a colourful addition to summer gardens, pots, mixed containers or landscape beds. It is ideal for pots on the courtyard or in the house, in border fringes or raised garden beds.

Based on the present study, different ornamental coleus cultivars were thus identified that could be used for various purposes in landscaping and is illustrated in Fig 1 and Fig 2. Different coleus cultivars used in the present study exhibited an incredible range of diversity for various traits studied and can be recommended for the landscape applications like use in Beds, Borders, Edging, Hedge, Planters, Mass planting, Hanging baskets, Vertical gardens, Container plantings, General Garden Use etc. The study in similar line was conducted earlier by Christine et al., 2005. Recommendations derived from the present study are as follows. Ornamental coleus cultivars like Trailing Queen, Kong Jr, Black berry Waffles and Private Dancer could be used in beds since they possessed dazzling colouration in the foliage. Grape Expectations, Kong Scarlet, Mahogany Giant and Antique could be used for border planting since they are tall varieties. Medium tall Varieties like Eruption, Gold giant and Dare devil are well appropriate as hedges in shady areas. They possessed appealing colouration. Apple mint, Gay Delight and Electric lime could be used in planters because of its gorgeous and elegant look. They had a uniform growth pattern and consistent colouration. Varieties suited for hanging basket include Juicy Lucy, Indian summer coleus and Miss Manohan because of its compact dense nature. Pistachio Nightmare, Freckles, Finger Paint and Wizard mosaic could be planted in vertical gardens and they give bold texture because of its sharp contrast. They displayed attractive leaf characteristics like fancy leaves and bizarre colouration. Dwarf and compact types like Blusher, Green Halo and Tilt a whirl can be used for container planting and for interior decoration purpose. Tilt a whirl was an admirable cultivar because of its distinctive leaf shape and compact nature. There was little or no disease and pest incidence on different coleus cultivars evaluated. This is first hand information which will allow folks involved in nursery industry to give appropriate planting recommendations for their clients or customers.



FIG. 1. COLEUS CULTIVARS RECOMMENDED TO FUNCTION FOR VARIOUS PURPOSES IN LANDSCAPING



FIG.2: VARIABILITY OBSERVED IN COLEUS COLLECTION AT ICAR -CCARI, ELA, OLD GOA

IV. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, these inconspicuous flower bearing ornamental plants like coleus could be used in shady landscapes and throughout the home to beautify the surroundings. The attractive and splendid foliage of these plants even challenges a brightest bloom. They improve the visual appeal and adds colour to the shady landscape. A foliage plant in a living room provides a hue of colour and helps to soften harsh lines from furniture and architectural design. The mere presence of ornamental foliage plant like coleus in our surroundings brings a vibrant feeling of refreshment. The image and look of the area whether it's home or office or hospital is enhanced by the growing of these ornamental plants. Apart from providing pleasant aesthetics, these foliage ornamental plants utilize the vacant spots in an efficient manner and fill our surroundings with fresh oxygen. Thus growing plants in the indoor as well as in the surroundings, helps in making our lives better by creating a vibrant and refreshing atmosphere.

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