

Ornamental Coleus: A potential ornamental for Urban Floriculture

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With change of life style and increased urban science, Urban Floriculture has assumed a definite commercial status. Urban Floriculture emphasise to maintain and improve the surrounding urban areas and gives a soothing effect to eye and mind. Ornamental coleus (*Solenostemon scutellarioides*) belonging to the family Lamiaceae is a group of plants with large colourful leaves grown primarily for the impact of its foliage. They provide a bold texture and a thick density to the landscape and are promising ornamentals for landscaping urban areas because of its vibrant colours and patterns. It is native to tropical Asia, Africa and Australia. Coleus have a highly variegated foliage with a mixture of green, cream, red, purple, burgundy or pink. People are oblivious of the choice and landscape performance of different varieties of ornamental coleus. Hence the present study was conducted with the objective to evaluate different ornamental coleus

cultivars based on various landscape performance criteria and to identify ornamental coleus cultivars that could be used for various purposes in urban landscaping. Significant variation was observed among different coleus cultivars for various morphological and quality traits studied. Plant Height, number of leaves, number of branches, stem girth, length of leaf with petiole, petiole length, leaf width, length of leaf without petiole and diameter of leaf stalk varied from 42.00cm to 89.67cm, 24.89 to 72.00, 3.00 to 8.67, 0.56 to 0.82cm, 11.03cm to 18.83cm, 2.07cm to 6.00cm, 5.5 to 10.83 cm, 8.3 to 14.78 cm and 0.18 to 0.42 cm respectively. The results of the study reflect the aptness of different ornamental coleus cultivars to function for various purposes in urban landscaping like beds, borders, hedges, planters, hanging baskets, vertical gardens or containers.

Popularization of Urban floriculture for Sustainable Ecosystem -A case study of CCS Haryana Agricultural University Hisar

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A faster pace Urbanization in the last few decades not only has direct impact on global warming and has also deteriorated the air quality particularly in urban areas. Reduction in agriculture land vis a vis diminishing vegetative cover is one of the many reasons behind this ecosystem imbalance. Popularization of floriculture in urban areas can be one of the strategy for combating climate change as increasing the vegetative cover definitely has positive impact on the reducing pollution and sustaining ecosystem as a whole. At CCS Haryana Agricultural University Hisar, a Centre for Quality Planting material has been established. The centre is disseminating urban floriculture through a number of innovative ideas like movable as well as fixed vertical gardens, container gardening, Window gardening, wall gardening, air purification platform,

soilless garden, coco -hangers, wall hangers, Self watering platforms, fabric pots etc. Besides, centre is also propagating ideas for re- use of abandoned items such as bullock carts, bicycle, rickshaw cart etc for adding creativity in urban floriculture. Visitors can also buy the planting material ornamental plants from centre and can replicate these ideas in residences, parks, institutes; avenues there by not only can help in city beautification but can also contribute in environmental conservation on sustainable basis. The centre is being upgraded to agritourism centre for wider impact on masses especially in students and urban youth through linkages with schools and education institutions. Thus, centre could be a torch bearer for promoting urban floriculture in the area.