

Classroom Plants Care Guide

Introduction

Classroom plants are ideal for cultivation in the classroom because of their relatively simple care requirements and numerous opportunities for experimentation and study.

Safety Precautions

Caring for classroom plants is considered nonhazardous. Please follow all laboratory safety guidelines.

Care and Maintenance

Upon arrival, plants are ready to be transplanted if necessary. They can be planted in general-purpose potting soil or a mixture of equal parts peat, sand and loam. Humidity should be kept near 50%. Temperatures should vary from moderate to warm 18–25 °C (64–78 °F). Classroom plants should be exposed to medium to bright lighting anywhere from 12 to 15 hours per day. Keep soil slightly moist but not wet and mist plants weekly. Feed plants once a month with liquid fertilizer according to instructions for each plant.



Figure 1.

Coleus is one of the most easily grown potted plants. Keep at warm temperatures and in bright light. Periodically pinch back stem tips and buds to encourage branching and a fuller plant. It is very susceptible to mealy bug infestation. If the plant becomes heavily infested it should be discarded. See Figure 1 for general appearance of *coleus*.

Geraniums are hardy and easily propagated. They grow best in medium to bright light at moderate temperatures. Geraniums should be transplanted to a four-inch pot or larger depending upon the size requirements for each plant. Periodically pinch back stem tips and buds to encourage branching and a fuller plant as done with the *coleus*.

Disposal

Please consult your current *Flinn Scientific Catalog/Reference Manual* for general guidelines and specific procedures, and review all federal, state and local regulations that may apply, before proceeding. Dispose of according to Flinn Scientific Biological Disposal Method Type VI.

Items necessary to grow *Classroom Plants* are available from Flinn Scientific, Inc.,

Catalog No.	Description
LM1140	<i>Coleus</i>
LM1141	Geranium
AB1460	Planting Mix, Jiffy®, 8-qt Bag
FB0585	Peat Moss
FB0653	Pots, Plastic, 4"
FB0654	Pots, Plastic, 5.5"

Consult your *Flinn Scientific Catalog/Reference Manual* for current prices.