



# July

"Nature is art perfected."

– Ralph Waldo Emerson



## QUIZ!

### Coleus

#### The Secrets of Coleus and the Environment

1. How long does it take for coleus to grow after planting?

- A) A few days.
- B) A few weeks.
- C) A few months.

2. Why is coleus important for the environment?

- A) It's the favorite plant of most insects.
- B) It helps improve soil quality with its leaves and branches.
- C) It provides shelter for small animals and insects.

3. Which part of coleus can you use to grow a new plant?

- A) The fruit and the leaf.
- B) The seed. and the fruit
- C) The leaf and the seed.



### Learning About Coleus Growth!

For a coleus plant to thrive, it needs:

**Light:** Coleus prefers partial shade or morning sunlight, which is easily available in Cyprus's sunny climate.

**Soil:** It prefers well-drained, nutrient-rich soil with a pH close to 6.0-7.0. Cypriot soils can be enriched with compost for better growth.

**Water:** Coleus needs regular watering to keep the soil moist but not overly wet. In Cyprus, watering should be done early in the morning or late in the afternoon to reduce evaporation.

**Fertilization:** Coleus thrives in nutrient-rich soil to develop its colorful leaves. Natural fertilizers can be used to enrich the soil.

**Temperature:** Coleus grows best in temperatures between 20°C and 30°C. Cyprus's warm summer temperatures are ideal for cultivating coleus.



## Learn About the Different Types of Coleus!

There are many types of coleus around the world! Here are some main varieties that are suitable for cultivation in Cyprus:

- **Wizard Mix:** This type has leaves in various colors and patterns, making it ideal for bright spots in the garden.
- **Kong Series:** Known for its large leaves with impressive patterns and colors, this variety is perfect for shaded areas.
- **Rainbow Mix:** Famous for its vibrant colors and leaf patterns, it thrives in both sunny and semi-shaded locations.
- **Black Dragon:** A unique coleus with deep red-black foliage, adding a dramatic appearance to your garden.
- **Tilt-a-Whirl:** With whirling leaves in red and green shades, this variety adds movement and color to your garden.

These varieties of coleus can bring beautiful and diverse colors to any outdoor space!



## Endemic Plant of Cyprus

### Throubi (*Satureja thymbra*)

**Info:** Throubi is an aromatic herb with pink or purple flowers, often used in cooking.



**Activity:** Create your own aromatic sachets using throubi and other herbs!



## Endemic Animal of Cyprus

## Bats Play a Crucial Role in Ecosystems for Various Reasons.

Let's look at some of their important contributions:

### 1. Insect Population Control

- **Insect Consumption:** Bats consume large quantities of insects, including many harmful to agriculture and human health, such as mosquitoes. This helps control insect populations and reduces the need for chemical insecticides.

### 2. Pollination

- **Pollinators:** Many species of bats are pollinators. They visit flowers to feed on nectar and, in the process, transfer pollen from one flower to another. This aids plant reproduction and supports biodiversity.

### 3. Seed Dispersal

- **Seed Dispersal:** Bats that feed on fruits help disperse seeds as they consume the fruit and release the seeds through their droppings. This contributes to forest regeneration and the growth of new plants.

### 4. Indicators of Ecosystem Health

- **Health Indicators:** The presence and diversity of bats can serve as an indicator of an ecosystem's health. Healthy bat populations signal a balanced and sustainable environment.

### 5. Economic Benefits

- **Reducing Agricultural Costs:** The natural pest control provided by bats reduces the need for insecticides, thus lowering costs for farmers and promoting sustainable agriculture.

These contributions highlight the essential role bats play in maintaining ecological balance and supporting biodiversity.

## Cypriot Bat (*Pipistrellus kuhlii cypricus*)

**Info:** The Cypriot bat is a mammal that feeds on insects and typically resides in caves and forests.

