

# Discover the Flora of Our Campus

## *Chamaecostus cuspidatus* (*Chamaecostus cuspidatus*)

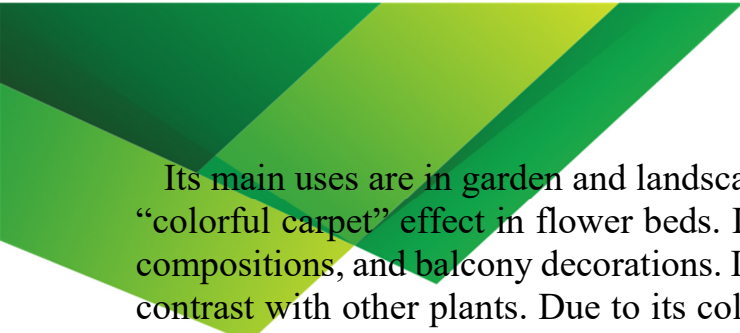
*Coleus scutellarioides*, popularly known as the “carpet flower,” is a highly decorative plant distinguished by the variety of colors in its leaves. The main beauty of this plant is not in its flowers, but in its leaves. The leaves are large, soft, and velvety in texture, featuring combinations of green, red, purple, pink, yellow, and cream colors. These colors often appear in patterns, stripes, or spots, making the plant resemble a colorful carpet. Its stem is soft and grows upright in a bushy form.



This plant is mainly native to Southeast Asia and tropical regions of Africa. In nature, it grows in warm, humid, and partially shaded environments. Today, it is widely used in garden, balcony, and park landscaping in many countries. In Azerbaijan, it is especially popular in summer in colorful flower and foliage arrangements.

*Coleus scutellarioides* prefers partial shade and bright conditions, but strong direct sunlight may cause the leaf colors to fade. The soil should be nutrient-rich, soft, and well-drained. It requires regular watering, as the leaves wilt quickly when the soil dries out. In warm and humid weather, it grows denser and more colorful. Regular pruning helps the plant remain bushy and decorative.

In terms of its impact on humans and ecology, the carpet flower mainly has aesthetic and landscape value. Its bright and multicolored leaves create a vivid decorative effect in gardens and parks. Although its flowers are very small, its foliage can still attract pollinating insects. It is widely used in urban landscaping to create color contrast. It gives people a sense of visual energy and nature connection.



Its main uses are in garden and landscape design. It is an ideal plant for creating a “colorful carpet” effect in flower beds. It is widely used in border plantings, group compositions, and balcony decorations. It can also be grown in pots, where it creates contrast with other plants. Due to its color diversity, it is highly valued in seasonal decoration.

Interestingly, the leaf color of Coleus can change depending on sunlight and temperature. Some varieties are so colorful that multiple colors can appear on the same plant at once. It has a very fast growth rate and can form a dense bush in a short time. Today, it is considered one of the most popular ornamental foliage plants in the world.

