



## Research File: Suståne®12-12-12

Fertility Trial, Coleus (*Solenostemon scutellarioides* 'Alabama')

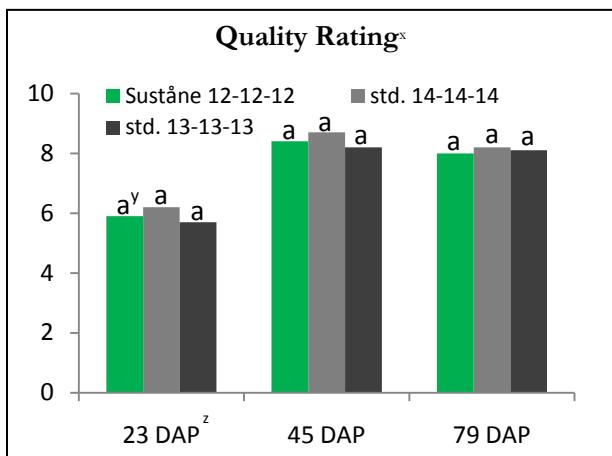
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Rydal, Georgia – 2008

Due to increased environmental awareness and escalating costs of quality control release fertilizers greenhouse production is in need of alternative nutrient sources, preferably derived from sustainable resources. Therefore, Suståne® 12-12-12 (90 day), a natural based fertilizer made from aerobically composted turkey litter blend with high quality coated controlled release fertilizer was evaluated for use on 'Alabama' Coleus. The trial compared Suståne 12-12-12 (90 day) to two industry-leading controlled release fertilizers, a 13-13-13 (T70) and a 14-14-14 (3-4 mo.). Each fertilizer was incorporated at a rate of 0.85 pounds of nitrogen per cubic yard. The potting medium was a 50:40:10 mix (by volume) of pine bark, peat and perlite.

Picture taken 79 days after planting in Rydal, GA during the summer of 2008



<sup>x</sup>plants rated on a scale of 1-9, 9=best

<sup>y</sup>means within a measurement date followed by different letters indicates significant differences, according to Duncan ( $\alpha=0.05$ )

<sup>z</sup>DAP corresponds to days after planting

**Results:** Quality rating was equal for all treatment groups at 23, 45 and 79 days after planting. Fresh weight was measured at 79 DAP and was equal for all treatment three groups. At 63 and 79 days after planting, growth index, calculated as the sum of plant-width<sub>1</sub>, -width<sub>2</sub> and -height divided by 3, was equal for all treatment groups.

**Conclusions:** For all parameters measured 'Alabama' Coleus grown with Suståne 12-12-12 (90 day) controlled release fertilizer performed equal or better to plants grown with either of the two comparable controlled release fertilizers with an N-P-K ratio of 1-1-1. The trial results show Suståne 12-12-12 (90 day) can provide greenhouse growers with the same performance as current industry-leading controlled release fertilizers.