**Name(s)**  
Plectranthus hadiensis var. tomentosa, purpuratus; Succulent Coleus; Vick’s Plant; Cuban Oregano

**Origin**  
Southern Hemisphere, in sub-Saharan Africa, Madagascar, India and the Indonesian archipelago down to Australia and some Pacific Islands.

**Age**  
Being a perennial plant, it tends to grow best over several years (approx 3 years and greater).

**Flowering**  
Flowers are pearly purple to deep violet & is attractive to bees, butterflies and/or birds

**Size**  
Known for growing with a spreading habit to a height of up to 8’, width up to 4’

**Light**  
Sun to Partial Shade

**Watering**  
Water sparingly but regularly then let it drain; do not overwater. Water less in winter mths.  Can handle small droughts; even if entire plant wilts, it generally bounces back.

**Soil**  
Likes weakly acidic – weakly alkaline soil.  Try to keep the ph of your soil between 6.1 and 7.8  
Prefers succulent-like conditions so keep well drained.

**Fertilizer**  
Fertilize only once during the growing season diluting to half-way strength.

**Pruning**  
It’s a relatively quick grower and can get fairly leggy.  If wanting more robust, cut often.

**Propagation**  
From stem cuttings, make sure that you have 2-4 leaf nodes on a stem and snip the cutting 1/4” below the nodes.  It’s easily waterlogged, so put cutting into a moistened growing medium (a potting soil-vermiculite).  Sit so it can get some diffuse sunlight.  Cutting take root in around three weeks.  Allow seed heads to dry on plants; remove and collect seeds.

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*Plectranthus*, with some 350 species & is a member of the mint family.  It grows as a perennial; flowering herb /semi-succulent.  Several species are grown as ornamental plants, leafy vegetables, as root vegetables for their edible tubers, or as medicine.  Other names include Cuban Oregano or Vick’s plant.

"Tomentose" refers to the fuzzy, velvety coating that covers the whole plant.  Leaves are ovate to ovate-triangular with the undersides lined with raised veins and the edges are scalloped.  Plant it in hanging baskets and in flower beds.  Repels mosquitoes but attracts bees, butterflies and/or birds

The foliage smells like a combination of oregano, thyme and turpentine while the flavor is minty oregano.  It is most often used to flavor meat and fish dishes.  Cuban oregano has many medicinal uses.  It is used to treat respiratory issues, malarial fevers, insect bites, allergies, convulsions and epilepsy.  In Indonesia, it is given to nursing mothers to improve their milk production.  The leaves can be steeped in boiling water to vaporize the oils which are then inhaled, thus helping to clear nasal and respiratory passages.  The leaves can also be applied as a poultice, or prepared in petroleum jelly-based ointments.

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