

Botanical name:
Genus: Codiaeum
Species: variegatum

Common Name(s):

Garden Croton

Latin Family Name:

Euphorbiaceae

English Family Name: Heath

The garden crotons should not be confused with Croton
The several hundred cultivars are selected and bred for their foliage

The plant

Origin; country or region: Native to Indonesia, Malaysia, Australia, and the western Pacific Ocean islands

Growth habit: Croton is an erect tropical evergreen shrub growing in open forests

Flower description: The white blooms are insignificant, not showy

Blooming period/availability: Easily available, perennial

Leaf/Foliage Description: Glossy, leathery, smoothed-edged leaves are in bright colors ranging from yellow, pink, orange, red, bronze, purple and green plus combinations thereof in patterns involving blotching and striping (Depending on the cultivar)

Usage:

STRENGTHS/OPPORTUNITIES: Crotons are popular house shrub plant grown for its variously colored foliage or used as an exterior foundation plant, specimen plant

They make attractive hedges and potted patio plants as they are valued for their striking foliage

Easily grown as an indoor houseplant or outdoor accent plant

Can be grown in colder climates, the plants are grown in greenhouses or as house plants

WEAKNESS:

Croton plant care may prove demanding for beginners

They survive better outdoors

Leaves can attract dust



Croton are members of the Euphorbiaceae family of plants, which makes them relatives of the Poinsettia and the Cast Iron plant

Care & Handling

Longevity: Long lasting and easy to care, does better outdoors or in areas with plenty of sunlight

Water requirements: Water liberally

Light: Prefers high light, direct sunlight

Soil/Nutrition requirements: Standard potting soil

A balanced fertilizer

Special care/remarks: All parts of this plant are poisonous

A milky white latex sap that exudes from damaged leaves or stems can be an irritant to soft tissue, causing itching and swelling

Wash your hands thoroughly when handling plants and keep hands away from the eyes

Some types of Croton Plants

'Petra:' this cultivar has oval leaves marked with red, orange, and yellow

'Red Iceton:' cream and yellow variety, tinted with a "red" that often appears pink

'Revolutions:' all green but with unusual curly leaves

