



Emerald Goddess Gardens

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Botanical Name	Codiaeum variegatum
Common Name	AFD5 Azienda Floreale Diem
Mature Size	3'x3'
Bloom Color	Yellow, Green, Red
Bloom Period	No Bloom
Boom Form	N/A
Water	Moderate
Light	Very Light Shade
USDA Zone	10 & South
Fragrance	None
Uses	Borders, Specimen
Special Features	Highly Colored Leaves



Crotons are native to Malaysia and East Pacific Rim. They are considered hardy outdoors in Zone 10 & South however, mine are in zone 9 and do quite well, however, I do cover them on the rare frosty below 32 night. Sometimes I have been neglectful and left them exposed and they have dropped all the leaves and sprouted back out, but they will not survive prolonged exposure below 32 degrees F.

Great in pots and dish gardens can be successfully wintered over with full spectrum light in colder climates or is often grown as an annual.

Crotons are the perfect choice for lightly shaded spot or pot where you want a dash of brilliant color. There are thousand of varieties. This is one has brilliant shades of red, green, and yellow, and so is commonly called 'Stoplight'

Its mature height is about 5 feet, but it can be maintained smaller. It is a slow grower, but rewards with varying shades of color at different stages of growth. Depth and range of color will decrease under low light conditions.

Plant it in well drained fertile soil in partial shade. (Deep shade will reduce the intensity and range of color). Feed it well 2 times a year with good quality slow release fertilize. Prune away the top 1/4 of the plant in mid summer to keep the roots strong. Protect it from freezing temps and then enjoy it every time you pass by. Can be grown potted indefinitely and makes a great container or dish garden plant.

For quick answers to your growing and planting questions, just email us at service@emeraldgoddessgardens.com

If you don't know your USDA Planting Zone, you can check the map on our website site at emeraldgoddessgardens.com

Care of Your New Croton Plant

Here are a few basic guidelines for handling and caring for your new tropical hibiscus plant:

Direct planting of 4 inch starter size Crotons directly into the landscape is not recommended. So, for the best results with your new hibiscus plant we suggest that it be repotted into a larger pot and allowed to grow larger until the new pot is filled with roots before setting out.

- Immediately unpack, remove the wrappings and shipping gel and discard the gel.
- Re-pot the new plant into a 6 inch to 10 inch diameter pot that can drain easily and thoroughly.
- Use a good quality commercial potting media. Crotons prefer a slightly acid soil.
- Apply a high quality, slow release plant food according to the label directions. Do not use hot, all chemical fertilizers like 6-6-6 or 10-10-10.
- Locate so that the plant in light shade. Depth and intensity of color is dependent on available light. Crotons need cool light. Avoid direct, hot sun.
- Maintain consistent and uniform moisture in the soil. Take care not to over water.
- Packing crystals may be reused to conserve water, but do so with caution as they hold 6000 times their weight in water.
- If reusing the crystals, mix and incorporate them thoroughly throughout the potting media.
- Be sure the pot can drain and that the bottom of the pot does not sit submerged in water for more than a day.
- Supplement feed with a water soluble plant food every 2-3 weeks according to the label directions.
- Prune or pinch lightly and often when the plant is young and actively growing to strengthen the central stalk and encourage branching and build uniform shape.
- Monitor for signs of disease or insects and treat accordingly.
- Protect from frost and freeze.

Crotons and many other tropical and subtropical plants can be grown as potted plant indefinitely and can be successfully wintered over indoors in colder climates, so long as they are moved indoors well ahead of temps into the 30's, are maintained in warm environment (minimum 40°F) with adequate, full spectrum light, and consistent soil moisture is maintained.

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This plant is intended for use as an ornamental, decorative item only. Emerald Goddess Gardens does not recommend, endorse nor offer the product for any other use.