



## Emerald Goddess Gardens

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<b>Botanical Name</b>	Codiaeum variegatum
<b>Common Name</b>	Bravo
<b>Mature Size</b>	4'x4'
<b>Bloom Color</b>	Pink, Red, Burgundy, Yellow
<b>Bloom Period</b>	No Bloom
<b>Boom Form</b>	N/A
<b>Water</b>	Moderate
<b>Light</b>	Very Light Shade
<b>USDA Zone</b>	10 & South
<b>Fragrance</b>	None
<b>Uses</b>	Borders, Specimen
<b>Special Features</b>	Highly Colored Leaves



**Codiaeum variegatum or Crotons** are native to Malaysia and Eastern Pacific Rim. They are among the largest and most popular species cultivated for ornamental use worldwide, and with good reasons.

They have a great many interesting and versatile uses to bring color and texture to the indoors or outdoors, and are the perfect choice for lightly shaded spots or pots where you want a dash of brilliant color. There are thousands of different cultivars in nearly infinite variations of colors, leaf structures, sizes and growth habits.

They can be mass planted for impact and drama, used as features, accents and transitions, as background and fillers in mixed shade beds, and make fine houseplants in most all settings aside from very low light.

**Bravo** is ultimately a fairly large growing croton. It will eventually reach heights of 4 to 6 feet if left unpruned. However, it grows slowly and is easily maintained at any lower height that is desired.

**Bravo** has brilliant splashes of pastel pink, muted reds, and burgundy with yellow highlights. Coloration varies at different stages of growth, light and nutrition. The leaves are large and luxurious, and make great additions to floral arrangements.

For the best results with your new **Bravo Croton**:

Direct planting of 4 inch starter plants is not recommended. We suggest potting it into a larger pot and allowing it to grow a larger root system before setting it out in the tropical landscape. When it's ready, here are a few hints for successful growing:

- Plant in fertile, slightly acidic, well draining soil. Amend the planting area with high quality organic material as may be needed.
- Locate in light shade (range of color with decrease proportionate to the level of light available)
- Feed a high quality, slow release fertilize with the initial planting and yearly thereafter.
- Supply supplemental irrigation.
- Prune lightly often while young to strengthen the main stalk and build interior branching and shape.
- Protect from frost and freeze.

For quick answers to your growing or planting questions, just email us at

[emeraldgoddessgardens@gmail.com](mailto:emeraldgoddessgardens@gmail.com)

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## **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 fertilizes 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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