



Emerald Goddess Gardens emeraldgoddessgardens.com

Botanical Name	Codiaeum variegatum
Common Name	Buddy
Mature Size	3 to 10 dwwr
Color Range	Yellow, Burgundy, Green
Bloom	Nondescript Beige
Boom Form	Very small single flowers clustered on a stalk
Water	Moderate
Light	Very Light Shade
USDA Zone	9, 10, 11
Fragrance	None
Uses	Borders, Specimen
Special Features	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.

Buddy is an old lost heirloom. It may have once had a different registered name, however we know it only as 'Buddy'. It was hybridized by *Arthur Kelley of Kelleys' Gardens* in Fort Myers Florida sometime in the late 50's to early 60's.

Its mature height can reach more than 6 feet left to its own devices, but it can be maintained smaller with regular pruning. **Buddy** is a slow growing croton, but rewards with a brilliant palette of bright vibrant yellow, burgundy, orange and green. The color range shifts and changes depending on the age of the growth, available light and current ambient temperatures.

For the best results with your new **Buddy 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 any growing or planting questions, just email us at service@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 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.

For quick answers to your growing or 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