



Emerald Goddess Gardens emeraldgoddessgardens.com

Botanical Name	Codiaeum variegatum
Common Name	Lucha
Mature Size	3'x3'
Bloom Color	Green and White
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



***Codiaeum variegatum* or Crotons** are a big species of tropical shrubs with variegated colored leaves native to Malaysia and Eastern Pacific Rim. There are thousands of different varieties, and are the perfect choice to brighten up a shady garden spot, or sprinkle around in pots anywhere that a dash of brilliant color and or texture is wanted.

They work 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.

The ***Croton Lucha*** is a unique and interesting croton that is probably the best suited of those we offer for growing as a houseplant indoors. It has long, narrow leaves, with wavy, slightly ruffled edges that are almost completely creamy white. As the leaf ages a fine overlay of green speckles develops and the ruffled edge of the leaf turns mottled green. This croton looks good in mass plantings in lightly shaded areas, makes a great addition to shaded mixed perennials beds, and an excellent potted plant.

For the best results with the Lucha Croton, we recommend potting the starter into a larger pot and allow it to grow larger before setting out in the tropical landscape. When the new pot has filled with roots, and ready to be set out, here are a few hints for successful growing:

- Plant it in fertile, well draining, slightly acidic soil.
- Locate in light shade (Deep shade will reduce the intensity and range of color).
- Supply supplemental irrigation.
- Feed a high quality slow release fertilizer 2 x yearly.
- Prune away the top 1/4 of the plant in mid summer to keep the roots strong, encourage branching and prevent legginess.
- Protect it from freezing temps and then enjoy it every time you pass by.

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

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