



Emerald Goddess Gardens

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Botanical Name	Codiaeum variegatum
Common Name	Mammy, Fire Croton, Dwarf Corkscrew
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



***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 ***Mammy* or *Fire Croton*** is one of the most popular has narrow strapped leaves that twist about the stalk, giving interesting shape and texture as well as color. It is also known as ***Dwarf Corkscrew***.

It is a slow growing, small structured croton that will reach a mature height of only about 3 feet, and is easily maintained smaller, if desired. ***Mammy*** rewards reliably with brilliant color in bright vibrant red, yellow, orange, deep black burgundy, peach and green. The palette will vary with the age of the growth, available light, temperature, and nutrition.

For the best results with the Mammy 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: (Larger 10 inch pots can be set out immediately where there is no danger of frost or freeze).

- 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 fertilize 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

Care of Your New Plant

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

Direct planting of 4 inch starter size plants or plugs directly into the landscape is not recommended, with a few exceptions. So, for the best results with your new plant we suggest that it be re-potted into a larger pot and allowed to grow larger until the new pot is filled with roots before setting out.

Check the recommended USDA Zone Range for the plant. Many gardeners are able to successfully grow plants outside their recommended Zones, but this is dependent upon providing the type of environment and care the plant needs.

- Immediately re-pot the new plant into a 6 inch to 10 inch diameter pot (a 6 inch pot is the recommended size for starter plugs) that can drain easily and thoroughly.
- Use a good quality commercial potting media.
- 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 can receive direct, full spectrum light for several hours daily, but is protected from hot, direct afternoon 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 few hours.
- 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, as even cold tolerant plants can be damaged by cold, and tropicals will perform better, flower earlier, and live longer within their Zone Range when protected from cold temperatures.

Many tropical and subtropical plants can be grown as potted plants 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°F's, are maintained in warm environment (minimum 40°F) with adequate, full spectrum light, consistent soil moisture is maintained, and any pest or disease issue are promptly and properly addressed.

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