



Emerald Goddess Gardens

emeraldgoddessgardens.com

Botanical Name	Codiaeum variegatum
Common Name	Shoestring Gold Dust
Mature Size	3'x3'
Bloom Color	Yellow, Green,
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 Shoestring Croton is an old heirloom Croton with very narrow strapped leaves that grow close and tight to the stem.

It is a moderately quick growing, small statured croton that will reach a mature height of only about 3 feet, and is easily maintained smaller, if desired. It lends contrast and texture to lightly shaded gardens, can be adapted grow indoors, or incorporate in garden pots and dish gardens. The variegation will vary with the age of the growth, available light, temperature, and nutrition.

For the best results with your Shoestring 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 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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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.