

Emerald Goddess Gardens
emeraldgoddessgardens.com

Botanical Name	Codiaeum variegatum
Common Name	Croton Zanzibar
Mature Size	6'x6'
Bloom Color	Nondescript
Bloom Period	None
Boom Form	None
Water	Moderate until establis
Light	Best in light shade
USDA Zone	10 & South
Fragrance	None
Uses	Potted, Border, Accent
Special Features	Brilliantly colored foliage



***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.

Zanzibar is a unique and interesting *croton* that is very well suited to be grown as a potted houseplant. It grows relatively slowly, and while it will eventually grow to be 4 to 6 feet tall if left to it's own devices, it is easy to maintain at a smaller and more manageable size indefinitely.

It has long, narrow, string-like leaves, with a slight wave to edge. The leaves grow dense and tight, giving a nice, making a nice, full, busy pot relatively quickly. The new growth emerges green, then develops a thin yellow stripe. Other bright tones of brighter golden yellow, red, and peach emerge as the leaf ages. This croton looks good in mass plantings in lightly shaded areas, makes a great addition to shaded mixed perennial beds, and an excellent potted plant.

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

If you don't know your USDA Planting Zone, you can check the map on our website site at <http://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 fertilizers like 6-6-6 or 10-10-10.
- Locate so that the plant is 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 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's, are maintained in a 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.