

# Croton (*Codiaeum variegatum*)

*Crotons come in an incredible array of leaf colors and shapes. They make showy houseplants, and are also wonderful additions to outdoor pots.*

## **Light:**

Prefers full sun to very bright indirect to maintain colors. Provide some protection from direct midday sun if outdoors.

## **Water & Fertilizer:**

Water thoroughly when moderately dry, discarding any water that runs through and accumulates in the saucer or cachepot.

Fertilize once in spring and once in early summer. Higher potassium fertilizers (3rd number in N-P-K) if possible.

## **Temperature & Humidity:**

Prefers warm home temperatures, avoid cold drafts from doors, windows or air-conditioning. Offer high humidity if possible, with regular misting and/or pebble trays.

## **Repotting:**

When your Croton outgrows its pot, repot into a pot a few inches wider.

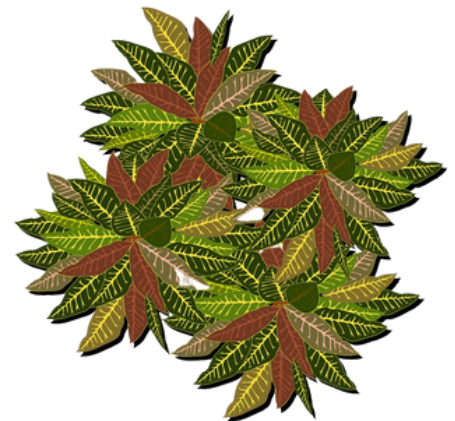
## **Pests:**

Spider mites and mealybug can infest Crotons. Treat at the first sign of pests.

As with many houseplants, overwatering is a common problem.

## **Toxicity:**

*Crotons are related to euphorbias and the sap can cause skin rashes in sensitive people. It can also cause gastric upset if eaten and more severe symptoms if ingested in large amounts. As with most mild- to moderately toxic houseplants, the unpleasant taste of the plant usually prevents pets and children from eating them. Always use your judgement with houseplants around pets or children.*



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