

REEMS CREEK NURSERY

Codiaeum variegatum

Croton

A Garden Guide

Member of the Euphorbia family, *Codiaeum variegatum* is native to tropical Southeast Asia and Oceania. These stunning evergreen plants come in a variety of color patterns and leaf shapes. While they can grow 10' in the wild, most grown indoors in containers will reach around 6' tall. They are from bright, hot, humid climates.

Hardy to zones 10-12, although they do not want to be below 60F and may start dropping leaves. Note that they are NOT edible plants, and that if leaves or branches break off, the milky white sap contains latex.

Light: *Codiaeum variegatum* love full sun (6-8 hours of sunlight), and will tolerate part sun (4-6 hours of sunlight). The darker the conditions, the more likely the leaves will lose their bright coloration. They would prefer your sunniest, south-facing window or under a skylight. Supplemental lighting may be used.

Water: They do not like to have their feet wet, so use a high quality, well-draining potting mix and only water when the first few inches of the mix are dry. Water less in winter.

Fertilization: Fertilize during the growing season with houseplant fertilizer.

Maintenance: Rotate the pot 1/4th every week so the plant grows evenly. Gently wipe dust off leaves with a moistened cloth as needed. Dead leaves can be removed at any time. Pruning will help encourage a bushier shape. Repot young plants in spring. For larger, older specimens, every spring remove top few inches of old potting mix and replace with fresh potting mix.

Temperature: 60F or higher. Anything lower will stress and damage them. Version 1.0, Apr 21

