

CROTON

Dave's Tips



PLANT NAME: CROTON

PRODUCT FORM: Unrooted Cuttings, Rooted Cuttings & Cell Packs

Crotons are tropical plants that can be grown indoors and in outdoor landscape applications in South Florida. The plants are native to southeast Asia but have been extensively bred and selected for bright colors and unique leaf shapes. Crotons will add texture and color to all applications.

HARDINESS ZONE(S)/TEMPERATURE: 10 & 11 & Protected Zone 9

LIGHT LEVELS: Stock is grown in full sun or 30% shade. Commercial production of smaller pots (4" to 6") light can be 1,500-2,000 foot candles, larger containers (6" to 10"+) can be 3000 foot candles and higher. Excessive light can contribute to bleaching of leaf colors but too little light will not allow the plants to color up.

GENERAL GROWING CONDITIONS: In South Florida they are grown as outdoor shrubs but do well in higher light indoor settings, especially in northern conditions. Adequate light must be given to maintain good leaf color. Crotons can be started from unrooted cuttings, rooted cuttings or liners (cell packs). Unrooted cuttings require hormones and a misting regime of at least 2 weeks (depending on the time of year). Rooted cuttings and liners can be planted directly in a finished pot.

FERTILIZER: N-P-K Ratio: 3-1-2 is adequate with minor elements, especially Calcium, Magnesium and Iron.

POTENTIAL PESTS: Spider Mites and Mealy bugs will be something to watch for, insect predators are effective on Spider Mites, chemical applications for Mealy bugs are best.

SOIL MIXTURE

Typically acidic soils are best, ph of 4.5 to 6.5 with a well drained mix. Typical mixes for larger pots can be 60% Peat, 40% composted pine bark. Mixes for smaller pots can be 60% Peat, 30% Coir, 10% Perlite

WATER

Crotons are somewhat drought tolerant but regular scheduled irrigations are best to maintain maximum growth rates

HUMIDITY

These are tropical plants and day humidities are best kept in the 60-70% range



Growth Rates

Tropical growing conditions - 68°F minimum night, 80°F day:

- 4" Pots
12 wks from URC
8 wks from RC & CP
- 6" Pots
18 wks from URC
14 wks from RC & CP
- 8" Pots
8 months from URC
6-7 months from RC & CP

Product Uses

- Interior
- Landscape applications: accent, mass planting, general garden use
- 4-14" pots depending on variety

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