



OnlinePlantCenter®

We hope you enjoy your new plants!

How to Care for a Mammy Croton Plant *Codiaeum variegatum*

PLANT PREP: Open box upon arrival, remove packing materials to let the plant “breathe”. Remove tape and newspaper. Water well. There are drainage holes in the bottom of the pot so do this outside where the extra water will drain away.

SELECT SITE:

Grows Outdoors All Year Only in USDA Plant Hardiness Zones: 10,11,12

Grow Indoors in All Other Zones

Crotons tend to lose their leaves when moved to a different area; it is best to select a site & simply keep it there.

Light Requirements:

Site in a brightly lit area that has indirect sunlight, away from harsh direct sun.

This shrub will grow to 3 ft. tall & wide when grown indoors; achieves a larger 8 ft. tall & wide stature when grown outdoors. For an outdoor hedge, space 5 ft. away from other plants or structures.

Soil:

Grow in most well-draining nutrient-rich soils.

Children & Pets:

Croton may be toxic to humans and pets. It is best to keep the plant away from your children and pets because they might chew the leaves.

WATERING REGIMEN:

As a general rule, water when the top 1” of the soil becomes dry. It is important to keep the soil slightly damp but not soggy.

Vital watering tips:

- Make sure the pot has drainage holes in the bottom.
- Only use light weight, well-draining potting soil.
- Give plants a deep watering when the top 1” layer of soil is dry.
- Don’t let the plant’s soil dry out completely.
- Remember, humidity is just as important as proper watering. Mist every day if needed.
- Water less frequently in winter months, always using soil moisture levels as a guide.

FERTILIZER/FOOD:

Feed with a granular houseplant fertilizer once a month during warm weather, or use a slow release fertilizer following package directions.

PESTS/OTHER PROBLEMS:

Rarely bothered by pests, treat scale or mealy bugs with an oil spray when needed. Control aphids with an insecticidal soap.

PRUNING/TRIMMING:

To create bushier growth, pinch back stems to promote branching.

There are many factors that will affect the ultimate height, spread and overall performance of a plant when grown indoors: among them, the size of the pot it is grown in, the amount of light it receives, watering frequency and quality, the pruning regiment, and the fertilizer application. Use the information described here as a guideline only; individual performance can and will vary.