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***Codiaeum* - "Croton"**

Light: Crotons prefer very bright light or some direct sun. Brighter light induces more variegation and bright colors on the leaves.

Water: Crotons prefer evenly moist soil; water when the top becomes dry to the touch. If the soil becomes too dry the plant will begin to wilt, but at the same time it's important to avoid overwatering. Keep soil moist, but not soggy and allow soil to dry down about an inch below the surface before watering.

Environment: A warm environment with mild humidity is important for a croton plant. Cool temperatures below 50 degrees will cause the plant to drop leaves. Indoors, mist frequently, add a humidifier to the room, or set them on a pebble tray filled with water. Do not place it near an AC vent or a heat source.

Toxicity: Reported to be poisonous to animals and humans. Contact with sap can cause skin irritation.

Of Note:

- Fertilize every few weeks in the spring and summer with a water soluble fertilizer.
- Crotons will drop leaves readily in times of transition such as moving to a new environment. Once you get your Croton home, choose its ideal location and do not move it around. It is normal to see rapid leaf loss in the beginning, but if conditions are appropriate, the croton will stabilize and begin to grow again.
- *When planting in a pot without a drainage hole, avoid over watering by estimating 25% of the container's overall volume, with appropriate drainage materials incorporated when planting.