Petra Variegated Croton

Codiaeum variegatum 'Petra'

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 10a

Other Names: Garden Croton, Variegated Laurel, Joseph's Coat

Description:

This woody perennial is an excellent houseplant in colder climates, noted for its striking foliage but, is a lovely outdoor accent in warmer areas; glossy, lanceolate leaves in a bright range of colors, yellow, pink, orange, red, bronze, green, and purple

Planting & Growing

This plant is native to the tropics and prefers growing in moist environments with evenly warm conditions all year round. In our climate, it is usually grown as an outdoor annual in the garden or in a container. If you want it to survive the winter, it can be brought in to the house and provided with special care, and then returned to the garden the following season. In its preferred tropical habitat, it can grow to be around 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. However, when grown as an annual or when overwintered indoors, it can be expected to perform differently, and its exact height and spread will depend on many factors; you may wish to consult with our experts as to how it might perform in your specific application and growing conditions.



Petra Variegated Croton foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Petra Variegated Croton foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

This plant does best in partial shade to full shade. Keep it well away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. This plant does not require much in the way of fertilizing once established. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America, and parts of it are known to be toxic to humans and animals, so care should be exercised in planting it around children and pets. It can be propagated by cuttings; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.



Petra Variegated Croton foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Petra Variegated Croton is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.