

CROTON PETRA *Codiaeum variegatum*

The Croton Petra has large, thick, leathery leaves in a wide range of brilliant colors. As a member of the Euphorbia family, this plant loves bright sunlight and can grow over 6 feet tall in its natural habitat. Grown as a houseplant, however, the Croton Petra will usually max out at 3 to 4 feet. Croton Petra is especially beloved by the people of Jamaica, as it can be found growing outdoors along many garden paths.

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN:

Southeast Asia & the West Indies

GREAT FOR: Bright Light

FEATURES:

Colorful foliage

GROWTH RATE: Slow



LIGHT

Requires bright, indirect sunlight to maintain bright colors. A few hours of direct light is okay—but too much will sunburn the leaves.



WATER

Allow soil to mostly dry out. Water less often in winter.



DIFFICULTY

Easy! Just make sure it has enough sunlight and warm temperatures.



TEMPERATURE

Requires warm conditions above 60°F. Keep away from drafty windows and air conditioners.



FERTILIZER

Feed with slow-release pellets or a liquid, indoor plant fertilizer about 1-2 times a month during the growing season. Do not fertilize in winter.



SOIL

Use a well-draining, All-Purpose potting soil.



PRUNING & PROPAGATION

Prune branches and leaves just above a node or leaf set, but do not remove more than a third of the stem at a time. To propagate, take a 4-inch stem cutting with at least 3 leaves, and dip stem in rooting hormone before planting in soil.



PET FRIENDLY?

Sorry! Will cause indigestion if any part of the plant is consumed and the sap can cause skin irritation.

