

## QUICK REFERENCE PLANTING GUIDE

LIGHT/SUN EXPOSURE	Bright indirect light.
USDA HARDINESS ZONES	Winter hardy in zones 9-11. In zones 3-8, we recommend planting in a container and enjoying your plant as a houseplant.
PLANT TYPE	Annual/Tropical.
PLANTING DISTANCE IN-GROUND	At least 4 feet apart.
CONTAINER SIZE	One plant per 12-inch or larger container.
MATURE HEIGHT / SPREAD	4 to 6 feet tall with a similar spread.
TIME TO REACH MATURITY	12 months.
FACTS OF NOTE	Unique colorful leaves. Great for decorative containers. Easy to grow indoors.

# Thank you for your order!

### PLANT WARRANTY

We warrant perennials for 1 year and annuals for 90 days from the time of the original shipment. If for any reason you are dissatisfied, we will replace your plant with a similar or comparable one, at no charge. If your replacement is not available or it is too late in the season to ship, it will reship the following shipping season.

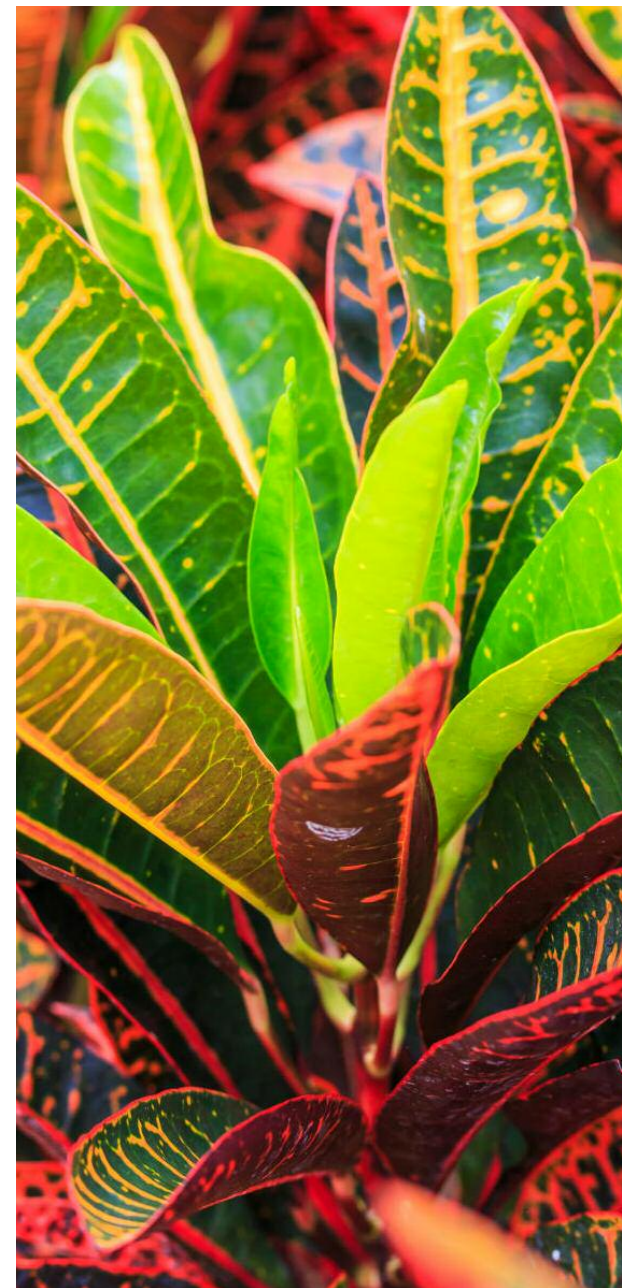
If you have any questions or concerns about your order, please contact us at 888-593-3644 or [help@cottagefarmsdirect.com](mailto:help@cottagefarmsdirect.com).

**Caution: Do not assume any plant is safe to eat. Only parts of plants expressly grown to be eaten should be considered edible. As with any product that is not food, care should be taken to make sure that small children and pets do not ingest any part of a plant that is not expressly grown to be eaten.**

Unless specifically stated, this product is intended for ornamental horticultural use only and is not intended for consumption or ingestion by humans or pets. Most plants are harmless but some contain toxic substances which can cause adverse health effects. Furthermore, some individuals and some animals are sensitive or allergic to certain plants and precautions should be taken to limit or avoid physical contact with particular plants. Some plants have thorns or spines that can be painful if handled.

**In case of ingestion contact a poison control center immediately.  
1-800-222-1222**

# CROTON



\*Image on cover is representative of the type of plant(s) in this offer and not necessarily indicative of actual size or color for the included variety.

## OUT OF THE BOX

### CROTON

Your plant has been shipped to you in a pot. Please remove it from the packaging right away and plant as soon as possible following the planting instructions below. If it is not possible to plant it right away, follow these important steps:

1. Roll the plastic down around the plant and place it in a sunny location.
2. Keep the plant well watered.

**Note:** Some leaves may appear wilted or yellow upon arrival. This is due to the stress of shipping and is nothing to worry about. Water the plant and let it recover in a shady location for a few days, then gently remove any foliage that does not recover to allow for new growth.



SHIPPED AS SHOWN

### SOIL PREPARATION

We recommend having your soil tested periodically by your local County Extension Office ([www.nifa.usda.gov/extension](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/extension) or by calling 1-800-333-4636). A soil test can determine if your soil needs any amendments to enhance the growth and performance of your plants.

Ideal garden soil is easy to dig in and drains well while still holding the nutrients and water vital to plant growth. To prepare a bed for in-ground planting, spade or till the soil to a depth of roughly 12-18 inches. Next, spread a 2-4 inch layer of organic matter such as compost, shredded leaves or peat moss over the soil and mix well.

## PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

**Important:** Thoroughly hydrate the plant by submersing the root zone in a container of water for 10 minutes while you prepare for planting.

We strongly recommend planting in a container in order to properly protect your plant from winter damage.

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| A | Fill the container with soil to within 4 inches of the top. Remove the pot and prepare the root ball for planting by gently disturbing the surface roots with your fingers, fork, or gardening tool and pruning any damaged roots. Dig a hole in the soil to insert the lower part of the root ball. |
| B | Once the plant is properly positioned in the pot, begin filling the pot with soil. Work the soil around the root ball with your hands, firming the soil around the plant with your fingers. When the hole is filled, tamp the soil to remove any air pockets.  |
| C | Water well and, if necessary, adjust the plant so it is upright and add additional soil if needed. Check to be sure the plant is not planted too deeply. If it is, raise the plant carefully and re-firm the soil.   |



### CONTINUING CARE

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| PRUNING | Dead, damaged, or unsightly growth can be removed as needed to maintain an attractive appearance.  |
| WEEDING | Keep the area around your plants free of weeds. Weeds compete with surrounding plants for food, water and light. Walk around the garden periodically and pull weeds, including the roots, as soon as you see them. |

## CONTINUING CARE (Continued)

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| WATERING         | <p>Adequate and consistent watering is essential during your plant's first year in the garden. Infrequent, long soakings of water that thoroughly saturate the soil are more effective than frequent, light applications of water.</p> <p>Allow the top inch of soil to dry out between each watering. Water thoroughly until the soil is well-saturated and excess water drains out of the drainage holes at the bottom of the container.</p> <p>Never allow the plant to sit in a saucer of water. Pots may be kept in saucers after any excess water has drained from the pot.</p> |
| FEEDING          | <p>Feed your plants once every 2-3 weeks during the growing season with a water soluble fertilizer. Discontinue feeding after September 1st so your plants can prepare for winter. Resume fertilizing when new growth appears in the spring.</p>  |
| GROWING INDOORS  | <p>Crotons make excellent year-round houseplants. Keep your plant in a room with a sunny window and temperatures between 65-80°F. Wipe the leaves with a damp cloth as needed if they become dusty.</p>   |
| GROWING OUTDOORS | <p>Crotons may be grown outdoors during the warm months. Move the plant indoors before the temperature drops below 50°F.</p> <p>When you bring your plant indoors for winter, place it in a room with a sunny window. Water sparingly over winter, removing any dead or unsightly growth as needed.</p> <p>In spring when temperatures begin to rise, ease the plant back into a full watering schedule and move it back outdoors for the summer.</p>   |