

## **Codiaeum variegatum (Croton)**

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Bright coloration of the leaves and the wide range of shapes it to them tower over most other plants, but it can carry as much joy and so much disappointment. Only the type seen *Codiaeum variegatum pictum* (*C. variegatum pictum*) in all its diversity. Trunk of gentleness with time becomes woody, the leaves are tough and seemingly impregnable, but only few can not be pleased him, and he is ready to literally an hour to izroni all its leaves, which unfortunately does not grow new.

Krotonat, which grows as the natural flora in Polynesia, Ceylon and India is the undisputed favorite ROOM as a plant and why.

Lovely looking plant in the shop or garden center, but before you buy it you should make sure that it can meet its specific requirements.

The main variety is *Codiaeum variegatum pictum*, but lately there are many varieties with different leaf shape and color. Most have oval leaves, but there are also a fork-like leaves, such as comb, twisted or rotated. Recognition of the variety is not easy because the color of the leaves vary from yellow to red in different periods of plant growth.

Meekness is very different from each other in the form of leaves which may be klenovidni, shirokoovalni, almost linear, with smooth or serrated periphery. Colors are equally diverse - pure red or yellow, red, yellow or white spots, with all sorts of shades, so you will not see nearly two identical meekness. For the welfare of this plant has two basic rules: strong lighting to brightly colored, and high air humidity, which is not necessary for good growth, but also as a protective agent against the red spider. During the growth of soil meekness must constantly moist. Do not pour cold water, use a soft and warm. Keep it from cold drafts. In spring and summer nurture it for two weeks.

" If pokafeveyat tips of the leaves, so the soil is too dry.

" If the entire periphery become dry and brittle - the temperature is too low.

" If the leaves are not well dyed or lose its color, so the plant does not receive enough light.

Temperature: Warm, minimum temperature 16 ° C in winter.

Light: strong light is needed, east or west window is an ideal location.

Irrigation: Water liberally from spring to autumn. Reduce watering in winter. Water when the soil slightly dry on top.

Air Humidity: The air should be moist. Winter Garden is the perfect place. Pulverization often, every day if possible. Clean dust from the leaves often.

Replanting: Only if necessary in the spring. Does not like big pots.

Discoloration of leaves: The cause is insufficient light.

Parasites: Red mites and lice can be a problem, check often and take the necessary measures immediately to remove nepriyatelite. Nuzhdae of constant temperature, which should not fall below 16 ° and high humidity. Soil should be kept moist at all times of growth with lukewarm water and should be protected from drafts. The constant feeding is necessary during the active period, but should be discontinued during the winter.

Your reward for the provision of appropriate conditions, will be colored shrub covered with leaf stem. A magnifying glass, periodically check the reverse side of the leaves for the presence of red spider and the least suspicion wipe all leaves with a piece of cotton soaked in lavender alcohol or other alcohol. You can also use specific insecticides, which are sold in flower shop.

Propagation: Take stem cuttings in spring. Use hormone rooting for a quick effect. It should be a warm place. Bottom heat is recommended.