



**Petra Variegated Croton**  
*Codiaeum variegatum 'Petra'*

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ● ●

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

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

**Ornamental Features**

Petra Variegated Croton features dainty racemes of white star-shaped flowers from late winter to early spring. Its attractive glossy oval leaves emerge green in spring, turning plum purple in color with showy red variegation and tinges of yellow the rest of the year.

**Landscape Attributes**

Petra Variegated Croton is a dense herbaceous annual with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its wonderfully bold, coarse texture can be very effective in a balanced garden composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should not require much pruning, except when necessary, such as to remove dieback. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Petra Variegated Croton is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Container Planting



*Petra Variegated Croton foliage*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



*Petra Variegated Croton foliage*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



## Planting & Growing

Petra Variegated Croton will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. Although it's not a true annual, this plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

This plant does best in partial shade to shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. 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 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.



*Petra Variegated Croton foliage*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder