

Codiaeum variegatum

Common name: Variegated Croton

Family: Euphorbiaceae

Habit: Shrub

Location: Botanical Garden

Distribution: It is native to Indonesia, Malaysia, Australia, and the western Pacific Ocean islands, growing in open forests and scrub.

Description:

It is a tropical, evergreen, monoecious shrub growing to 3 m tall and has large, thick, leathery, shiny evergreen leaves, alternately arranged, 5–30 cm long and 0.5–8 cm broad. The leaf blades can, for example, be ruler-lanceolate, oblong, elliptic, lanceolate, ovate inverted, ovate spatulate, or violin-shaped and coloured green, yellow, or purple in various patterns, depending on the variety. The petiole has a length of 0.2 to 2.5 cm. The inflorescences are long racemes, 8–30 cm (3.1–11.8 in) long, with male and female flowers on separate inflorescences; the male flowers are white with five small petals and 20–30 stamens, pollens are oval approximately 52x32 microns in size. The female flowers are yellowish, with no petals. The flowering period is usually in early autumn. The fruit is a capsule 9 mm (0.35 in) in diameter, containing three seeds that are 6 mm (0.24 in) in diameter. When cut, stems bleed a milky sap like many of the Euphorbiaceae.

Uses:

It is used as an ornamental plant in gardens and homes because of its vibrant leaf colors. It is known for its air-purifying properties. It plays a prominent role in Feng Shui because of its wonderful positive energy addition to living places. It is known to treat diabetes, high blood cholesterol levels and gastrointestinal disturbances, as well as hepatic disturbances and weight loss.

