

Robert Lavalois Variegated Croton



Robert Lavalois Variegated Croton *Codiaeum variegatum 'Robert Lavalois'*

Height: 7 feet

Spread: 5 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Garden Croton, Variegated Laurel, Joseph's Coat

Description:

This vigorous variety is a spectacular garden accent only in frost free climates; large, dark green pointed foliage is dramatically striped and splashed in bright yellow; a stunning accent in beds or patio containers

Ornamental Features

Robert Lavalois Variegated Croton's attractive large glossy pointy leaves emerge light green in spring, turning dark green in color with showy yellow variegation and tinges of gold the rest of the year on a plant with an upright spreading habit of growth. It features dainty racemes of white star-shaped flowers from late winter to early spring.

Landscape Attributes

Robert Lavalois Variegated Croton is a dense herbaceous annual with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other garden plants with finer foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should not require much pruning, except when necessary, such as to remove dieback. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Robert Lavalois Variegated Croton is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting



*Robert Lavalois Variegated Croton
foliage*
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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Planting & Growing

Robert Lavalois Variegated Croton will grow to be about 7 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 5 feet. Although it's not a true annual, this fast-growing 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 full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. This plant should not require much in the way of fertilizing once established, although it may appreciate a shot of general-purpose fertilizer from time to time early in the growing season. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. 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.

Robert Lavalois 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.