

## Elaine Variegated Croton

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### Elaine Variegated Croton *Codiaeum variegatum 'Elaine'*

Height: 8 feet

Spread: 6 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Garden Croton

#### Description:

This woody perennial is largely considered as a houseplant in colder climates, noted for its striking foliage; glossy, ovate leaves show off in hues of greens, yellows, oranges, reds and pink; a striking addition to containers or tropical gardens

#### Ornamental Features

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

#### Landscape Attributes

Elaine 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. 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.

Elaine Variegated Croton is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

#### Planting & Growing

Elaine Variegated Croton will grow to be about 8 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 6 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.



*Elaine Variegated Croton in full*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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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. 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.

Elaine 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.