



## Sunny Star Variegated Croton

*Codiaeum variegatum 'Sunny Star'*

Height: 10 feet

Spread: 5 feet

Sunlight: ☐ ☒

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Variegated Laurel

### Description:

This woody perennial is considered a houseplant in colder climates, and noted for its striking foliage; glossy, narrow leaves of deep green, striped and splashed with bright yellow; a striking garden accent; great for patio pots; protect from frost

### Ornamental Features

Sunny Star Variegated Croton's attractive glossy narrow leaves emerge light green in spring, turning dark green in color with showy yellow variegation the rest of the year on a plant with an upright spreading habit of growth.

### Landscape Attributes

Sunny Star 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.

Sunny Star Variegated Croton is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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



*Sunny Star Variegated Croton foliage*  
 Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



*Sunny Star Variegated Croton foliage*  
 Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

### Planting & Growing

Sunny Star Variegated Croton will grow to be about 10 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 5 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 full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. This plant is a heavy feeder that requires frequent fertilizing throughout the growing season to perform at its best. 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.

Sunny Star Variegated Croton is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Its large size and upright habit of growth lend it for use as a solitary accent, or in a composition surrounded by smaller plants around the base 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.