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Codiaeum variegatum

[Synonyms : *Codiaeum albicans*, *Codiaeum angustifolium*, *Codiaeum burtonii*, *Codiaeum chelsonii*, *Codiaeum chrysophyllum*, *Codiaeum cooperi*, *Codiaeum crispum*, *Codiaeum cuneifolium*, *Codiaeum dodgona*, *Codiaeum eburneum*, *Codiaeum elegans*, *Codiaeum elegantissimum*, *Codiaeum elongatum*, *Codiaeum evansianum*, *Codiaeum fucatum*, *Codiaeum goldei*, *Codiaeum grande*, *Codiaeum hanburyanum*, *Codiaeum henryanum*, *Codiaeum illustre*, *Codiaeum imperiale*, *Codiaeum insigne*, *Codiaeum interruptum*, *Codiaeum jamesii*, *Codiaeum lancifolium*, *Codiaeum lyratum*, *Codiaeum macfarlanei*, *Codiaeum maculatum*, *Codiaeum magnificum*, *Codiaeum majesticum*, *Codiaeum maximum*, *Codiaeum medium*, *Codiaeum moluccanum*, *Codiaeum multicolor*, *Codiaeum mutabile*, *Codiaeum nevilleae*, *Codiaeum obovatum*, *Codiaeum pictum*, *Codiaeum pilgrimii*, *Codiaeum recurvifolium*, *Codiaeum roseopictum*, *Codiaeum spirale*, *Codiaeum stewartii*, *Codiaeum superbiens*, *Codiaeum sylvestre*, *Codiaeum taeniosum*, *Codiaeum timorense*, *Codiaeum trilobum*, *Codiaeum triumphans*, *Codiaeum triumphans* var. *harwoodianum*, *Codiaeum undulatum*, *Codiaeum vanoosterzeei*, *Codiaeum variegatum* forma *ambiguum*, *Codiaeum variegatum* forma *angustifolium*, *Codiaeum variegatum* forma *appendiculatum*, *Codiaeum variegatum* forma *cornutum*, *Codiaeum variegatum* forma *crispum*, *Codiaeum variegatum* forma *lanceolatum*, *Codiaeum variegatum* forma *latifolium*, *Codiaeum variegatum* forma *lobatum*, *Codiaeum variegatum* forma *longifolium*, *Codiaeum variegatum* forma *medium*, *Codiaeum variegatum* forma *minus*, *Codiaeum variegatum* var. *moluccanum*, *Codiaeum variegatum* forma *parvifolium*, *Codiaeum variegatum* forma *perringii*, *Codiaeum variegatum* var. *pictum*, *Codiaeum variegatum* forma *platyphyllum*, *Codiaeum variegatum* forma *taeniosum*, *Codiaeum variegatum* var. *variegatum*, *Codiaeum volutum*, *Codiaeum warrenii*, *Codiaeum weismannii*, *Codiaeum williamsii*, *Codiaeum wilsonii*, *Codiaeum youngii*, *Croton andreanus*, *Croton andreeus*, *Croton aucubifolius*, *Croton baliospermus*, *Croton bellulus*, *Croton bergmanii*, *Croton carrieri*, *Croton cornutus*, *Croton drouetii*, *Croton duvalii*, *Croton evansianus*, *Croton hastiferus*, *Croton hillianus*, *Croton hookeri*, *Croton imperialis*, *Croton incanus*, *Croton interruptus*, *Croton irregularis*, *Croton johannis*, *Croton lacteus*, *Croton latimaculatus*, *Croton massangeanum*, *Croton mirus*, *Croton multicolor*, *Croton musaicus*, *Croton newmannii*, *Croton philippsii*, *Croton picturatum*, *Croton pictus*, *Croton regelii*, *Croton russelli*, *Croton thomsonii*, *Croton truffautii*, *Croton undulatus*, *Croton variegatum*, *Croton variegatus*, *Croton veitchianus*, *Croton vervaetii*, *Croton weismannii*, *Croton wigmannii*, *Crozophyla angustifolia*, *Crozophyla elliptica*, *Crozophyla picta*, *Crozophyla variegata*, *Junghuhnia glabra*, *Oxydectes variegata*, *Phyllaurea codiaeum*, *Phyllaurea variegata*, *Ricinus picta*]

CODIAEUM is an evergreen shrub. Probably native to Malaysia and Pacific Islands, it has whitish catkins.

It is also known as *Croto* (Canary Island), *Croton*, *Garden croton*, *Joseph's coat*, *Kohson* (Thai), *Puding* (Javanese and Malay), and *Variegated laurel*.

In cultivation the glossy, green leaves are variably coloured, reddish-brown, scarlet, yellow, green or mixtures.

Warning – the milky sap in the leaves is poisonous.

Variegatum means 'variegated or irregularly coloured' with reference to the leaves. The coloured leaves have long been cultivated locally around homes for their ornamental qualities, and have been used for decoration during festivities. In more recent times the plants have been grown as screening.

Codiaeum is believed to have been introduced to Europe in the late 19th Century. Medicinally, local Asian treatments have used the leaves for treating coughs, and the pounded roots have been applied externally on venereal sores.