PLANT FACT SHEET

Codiaeum variegatum (L.) Rumph. ex A. Juss.

GENUS *Codiaeum* **FAMILY** Euphorbiaceae

COMMON NAMES Croton, Variegated Laurel

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Vegetable

The very young leaves of some kinds are eaten as a flavouring. They are blanched for salads.
Caution: It can be toxic or produce allergies.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It grows 3-8 m high. The leaves vary in shape. They are oval and taper to the base. They are thick and leathery. Leaves can have a range of colours. They are 10-20 cm long by 4-8 cm wide. Flowers are separately male and female. The male flowers are in groups of 2-6 while the female flowers are single. The fruit is a capsule 0.6-0.8 cm across.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. They do best in moist, humus-rich soil. It grows from sea level to 900 m above sea level. It suits hardiness zones 11-12. In XTBG Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed or cuttings. Tip cuttings or air layering can be used. It can be used for hedges or living fences.

NOTES

There are about 6-17 Codiaeum species.
In Botanical Gardens in Slovenia presumably in a hot house.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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