

*The Croton Society wishes you and yours a
very safe and happy holiday season!*

Let us know how you incorporate your love of Crotons into your holiday celebrations –
We'll publish them in a future edition of The Codiaeum Connection as inspiration for others next holiday season!

Here Comes Winter

By: Rick Jimenez, Tampa FL

Winter should be a Croton lover's greatest concern. Unless one lives in a tropical climate/zone, this season can present a problem or even a catastrophe. Years of collecting, watering, fertilizing, propagating and spraying can be rendered meaningless in just a few short hours.

Some varieties tolerate cold better than others. Large leaved plants seem to injure easier than smaller ones. Remember, like any tender ornamental plant, the varieties that grow the fastest tend to die back the easiest.

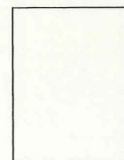
Never fertilize after September! This will only encourage fresh growth that might be burned by even a mild cold snap.

If you have only a few plants in containers, simply move them indoors. If outdoors in containers or in the ground, cover first with cloth, followed by plastic. Don't forget to secure your covering to the ground to preserve heat. Also, freeze cloth can be purchased at any wholesale agricultural supply warehouse. This method is best for large areas with the added benefit of not having to promptly remove, like the cloth and plastic method.

It doesn't hurt to have your Crotons positioned on the south side of the house to protect from the cold northern winds.

Remember: Water thoroughly the day before an anticipated freeze. Dry root systems will only reduce your plant's chance of survival. Good Luck!

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Happy Holidays!
