

Botanical Name: Lagerstroemia indica (several varieties are available)

Common Name: Crape Myrtle

Type of Plant: dicot: tree/shrub Character deciduous

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape has variable shapes; most commonly seen as a multi-trunked rounded shrub or as a small tree with vase-shaped branching to form a rounded canopy; develops a smooth gray-green bark

Height 5-30' Spread 2/3 to equal Growth Rate slow-moderate

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full sun required; grows poorly in shade

Soil tolerates most; prefers well-draining loam

Hardiness hardy (zones 1-9, 12-14, 18-21); thrives in warm inland

Morphology:

Leaves pinnate, opposite (upper ones are alternate), oblong-oval or elliptic; sessile, 1-2" long, smooth, dark green

Flowers white, pink, red, purple, very showy in terminal panicles; the flowers are 1 to 1-1/2" across, with 5-8 fringed petals, many stamens

Fruit a capsule: woody, oblong, 3/8" long

Propagation: seed, followed by budding or grafting; semihardwood cutting

Usage: an outstanding small accent tree, valued for its form and heavy flower display; a small street tree, container plant or espalier; an excellent plant for water-conserving landscapes

Landscape Care:

Watering an occasional deep soak; becomes very drought resistant after established

Fertilizing balanced, in spring; add iron to correct chlorosis

Pruning as a tree, head high and develop primary branch structure

Pests/Diseases powdery mildew; aphids, scale; salt burn in alkaline soils

Special Conditions

Origin: E.Asia Family: Lythraceae