

Crapemyrtle *Lagerstroemia indica*

Crapemyrtle, Striking flowers, handsome bark, and attractive fall foliage all combine to make the crapemyrtle a landscape favorite. It is particularly well suited for hot, sunny climates and once established, will tolerate considerable drought. A beautiful specimen tree, it is often used in groupings, containers, hedges and screens, urban settings, and as a small street tree.

FORM: deciduous, small to medium sized small tree with a variable, moderately dense habit, often multi-stemmed form. Produces a spread of spread of about 6-15 feet at full maturity. It needs plenty of moisture when young. After it is established it will tolerate drought and grow well in limited soil spaces. During the growing season, new growth can be pinched to increase flower number and branching. **DO NOT POLLARD OR TOP.** The branches will droop as the tree grows. The lower branches are often thinned to show off the trunk form and color. Because pruning can significantly reduce cold hardiness, you should try to have it completed by early August. Plant 3-4 apart for a single row hedge.



FLOWERS:

The showy flowers have wrinkled petals like crepe paper and vary in colors from white, pink, lavender, purple to

red in 6-8" long, 3-5" wide showy panicles on new growth.



BARK: The thin gray bark is exfoliating, exposing a smooth, vari-colored under bark ranging from brown to gray.

FRUITS: Dry-dehiscent Capsules

PLANTING: Prefers moist soil but has good drought tolerance & does well in full sun.

LEAVES: The foliage is dark green changing in fall to yellows, oranges, and reds. The leaves are opposite or the upper alternate, simple, 1-2 3/4" long, 3/4-1 1/2" wide, oval to oblong, lustrous medium to dark green with showy, yellow, orange or red colors in the fall. White flowered trees produce

