

## Lagerstroemia indica

### (Crape Myrtle)

Depending on variety, crape myrtles grow as large shrubs or as trees that may be either upright or spreading. The deciduous crape myrtle is among the longest blooming trees in existence with flowering periods lasting from 60-120 days. Crape myrtles come in heights as short as 46 cm and as tall as 12 m. Leaves are alternate and smooth, but leaf size depends on variety. Flowers are borne in summer in big showy clusters and come in white and many shades of pink, purple, lavender and red. The fruits that follow are brown or black. Large varieties are very fast growing. Many types have interesting bark that exfoliates in thin flakes exposing lovely cinnamon or gray inner bark. Crape myrtle likes moist soil, where it will grow exceedingly fast, but it tolerates dry conditions once established. Pruning is recommended only to remove overly dense branches and crossing limbs. Cutting off old flower heads in summer can promote a second and third round of flowering, though. Crape myrtles are a magnet for aphids. Crape myrtles are becoming more widely used in urban areas, especially as new varieties have been developed for smaller size and disease resistance. Used also as a specimen, container plant hedge or screen.



Plant Image

#### Landscape Information

**French Name:** Lagerstroemia indica

**Pronunciation:** lay-gur-STREE-mee-uh IN-dick-uh

**Plant Type:** Tree

**Origin:** China

**Heat Zones:** 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16

**Hardiness Zones:** 7, 8, 9, 10, 11

**Uses:** Specimen, Container, Shade, Wildlife, Street, Pollution Tolerant / Urban

#### Size/Shape

**Growth Rate:** Moderate

**Tree Shape:** Vase

**Canopy Symmetry:** Symmetrical

**Canopy Density:** Medium

**Canopy Texture:** Medium

**Height at Maturity:** 8 to 15 m

**Spread at Maturity:** 5 to 8 meters

**Time to Ultimate Height:** 10 to 20 Years

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Flower Image

## Botanical Description

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### Foliage

**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate

**Leaf Venation:** Pinnate

**Leaf Persistence:** Deciduous

**Leaf Type:** Simple

**Leaf Blade:** 5 - 10 cm

**Leaf Shape:** Ovate

**Leaf Margins:** Entire

**Leaf Textures:** Smooth

**Leaf Scent:** No Fragrance

**Color(growing season):** Green

**Color(changing season):** Yellow, Orange, Red

### Flower

**Flower Showiness:** True

**Flower Size Range:** 10 - 20

**Flower Type:** Panicle

**Flower Sexuality:** Monoecious (Bisexual)

**Flower Scent:** No Fragrance

**Flower Color:** Red, Purple, White, Pink

**Seasons:** Spring, Summer

### Trunk

**Trunk Susceptibility to Breakage:** Generally resists breakage

**Number of Trunks:** Multi-Trunked, Single Trunk

**Trunk Esthetic Values:** Showy, Fissured

### Fruit

**Fruit Type:** Capsule

**Fruit Showiness:** True

**Fruit Size Range:** 0 - 1.5

**Fruit Colors:** Black

**Seasons:** Spring, Summer

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Leaf Image

### Horticulture Management

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#### Tolerance

**Frost Tolerant:** Yes

**Heat Tolerant:** No

**Drought Tolerant:** Yes

**Salt Tolerance:** Poor

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#### Requirements

**Soil Requirements:** Clay, Loam, Sand

**Soil Ph Requirements:** Acidic, Neutral

**Water Requirements:** Moderate, Low

**Light Requirements:** Full

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#### Management

**Toxity:** No

**Invasive Potential:** No

**Susceptibility to Pests and Diseases:** Yes

**Pruning Requirement:** Little needed, to develop a strong structure

**Fruit/ Leaves/ Flowers litter:** No

**Surface Rooting:** No

**Life Span:** 25-50 years

**Diseases:** Powdery Mildew, Leaf Spots

**Edible Parts:** None

**Pests:** Aphids

**Plant Propagations:** Seed, Cutting

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## MORE IMAGES



Fruit Image



Bark Image



Other Image