

Lagerstroemia indica

(Crape Myrtle)

Depending on variety, crapes 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. Crapes 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

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

Tolerance

Frost Tolerant: Yes

Heat Tolerant: No

Drought Tolerant: Yes

Salt Tolerance: Poor

Requirements

Soil Requirements: Clay, Loam, Sand

Soil Ph Requirements: Acidic, Neutral

Water Requirements: Moderate, Low

Light Requirements: Full

Management

Toxicity: 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

MORE IMAGES



Fruit Image



Bark Image



Other Image