

# Crape Myrtle

Info

Crape Myrtle is a spectacular flowering tree or shrub for the summer months, when most other plants are not in bloom. This native of southern Asia and Australia has been used in landscapes throughout the southeastern U.S. for its fast growth, cold hardiness, and brilliant flower spikes from June through September. Crape Myrtle is a deciduous plant, losing its alternately arranged leaves in the fall as they turn reddish in color. In spring new growth emerges with the return of warm weather. Maximum size and flower color depend on the cultivar and variety. Crape Myrtles are available in many varieties which may grow to a maximum of three feet to over 20 feet in height. Flower colors range from white to lavender, purple, pinks and reds, in different varieties. After flowering occurs, old bloom pod should be removed to encourage increased flowering throughout the summer. Crape Myrtles can be used in the landscape as specimen or accent trees or shrubs. They may also be used along the street as an avenue planting.

## PLANTING

Crape Myrtles grow well in many different types of soil; however, best growth can be expected when plants are set in a well-drained, improved soil in full or half-day sun. Plants should be placed in the ground at soil level, and a three to four foot mulched ring should be left around the base to conserve moisture and help protect from possible damage from lawn maintenance equipment. Newly planted trees or shrubs should be watered every two or three days for the first six weeks, and then only as necessary to prevent wilt. Mix **Espoma Bio-tone Starter** in the soil for healthy root growth.

## FERTILIZING

Frequent light applications of **Espoma Tree-tone** fertilizer will get the trees or shrubs off to a good start. Apply one-half cup of fertilizer per tree or shrub every six to eight weeks during the growing season. Larger established trees or shrubs should be fertilized in early spring and late summer, using one to three pounds of **Espoma Tree-Tone** per plant. Fertilizer should be applied throughout the entire root zone, which includes the area out to and slightly beyond the canopy spread of the plant.

## PRUNING

After each blooming, remove old bloom pods for increased flowering throughout the summer. Prune to shape in late winter.

## PLANT PROBLEMS

*Powdery mildew disease:* A fungus which produces a whitish powder on buds and leaves causing leaf distortion and flower malformation. Usually occurs in areas of poor air circulation during humid weather. *Solution:* Existing fungus may be sprayed with Maneb which are broad spectrum fungicides. Spray according to the proper application rate as specified on the label. There are powdery mildew-resistant varieties of Crape Myrtle. Such as the native Indian name line.

*Root-rot:* Disease which attacks the roots and may cause premature death of the plant; usually occurs from excess moisture around the root zone. *Solution:* No control available for this disease. Plants should be placed in a well-drained location with little or no chance of standing water or poor drainage.

*Aphids:* Sucking type insects that attack new growth and flower buds, causing distorted leaves and flowers. *Solution:* Spray with **Insect Killing Soap**.

# Rockledge Gardens



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|                         |                     |         |                        |   |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------|------------------------|---|
| <b>Acoma</b>            | White               | 5-10ft  | Small Weeping Bush     | Very distinctive habit, good bloomer, excellent accent plant, fall color-purple/red                         |
| <b>Apalachee</b>        | Lt. Lavender        | 10-20ft | Upright Vase Shaped    | First to bloom, light cinnamon exfoliating bark, fall leaf color-russet                                     |
| <b>Biloxi</b>           | Pale Pink           | 20+ft   | Large Upright Tree     | Very fast upright grower, hardy, heavy bloomer, exfoliating bark, nice street tree                          |
| <b>Carolina Beauty</b>  | Dark Red            | 20+ft   | Large Upright Tree     | Hardy, very upright, with dark foliage, fall leaf color-orange  |
| <b>Catawba</b>          | Violet Purple       | 10-15ft | Compact Globose Bush   | 'Deepest purple' prolific bloomer, fall leaf color-red/orange   |
| <b>Centennial</b>       | Bright Purple       | 3-5ft   | Compact Dwarf Bush     | Excellent plant for a small area, outstanding flower color, fall leaf color-orange                          |
| <b>Chickasaw</b>        | Pink-Lavender       | 1-2ft   | Compact Dwarf Mound    | Excellent potted plant, Flowers in mid to late summer and persists until frost. Fall leaf color-bronze/red  |
| <b>Choctaw</b>          | Bright Pink         | 20+ft   | Large Tree             | Moderate bloomer, open growth habit, exfoliating bark, fall leaf color-maroon                               |
| <b>Commanche</b>        | Coral Pink          | 10-20ft | Broad Upright Bush     | Moderate bloomer, with tan exfoliating bark, fall leaf color-red  |
| <b>Dynamite</b>         | Cherry Red          | 10-20ft | Large Upright          | Vigorous upright grower, crimson flower buds, thick leathery foliage.                                       |
| <b>Hope</b>             | White               | 3-5ft   | Dwarf Bush             | White blooms that fade to pink as flowers age. Fall leaf color-yellow                                       |
| <b>Hopi</b>             | Medium Pink         | 5-10ft  | Small Compact Bush     | Early bloomer, abundant large flowers, fall leaf color-orange/red   |
| <b>Lipan</b>            | Med. Lavender       | 10-20ft | Broad Upright Bush     | Good bloomer, white exfoliating bark, fall leaf color-orange  |
| <b>Miami</b>            | Dark Pink           | 20+ft   | Broad Tall Tree        | Very fast grower, exfoliating bark, excellent fall leaf color-orange  |
| <b>Muskogee</b>         | Lt. Lavender        | 20+ft   | Broad Tall Tree        | Grows very fast, blooms well, excellent exfoliating bark, excellent street tree, fall leaf color-red/orange |
| <b>Natchez</b>          | White               | 20+ft   | Broad Tall Tree        | Hardest, largest grower, best exfoliating bark, excellent flowers, fall leaf color-red/orange               |
| <b>Osage</b>            | Clear Pink          | 10-20ft | Large Bush             | Very hardy, graceful growth habit, exfoliating bark, fall leaf color-red                                    |
| <b>Pecos</b>            | Medium Pink         | 5-10ft  | Small Upright Bush     | Dark foliage, exfoliating bark, fall leaf color-maroon  |
| <b>Pink Velour</b>      | Pink                | 5-10ft  |                        |   |
| <b>Pocomoke</b>         | Dark Pink           | 1-2ft   | Compact Dwarf Mound    | Excellent potted plant. Flowers in mid to late July. Fall leaf color-bronzed/red                            |
| <b>Raspberry Sunday</b> | Red to Pink w/white | 10-20ft | Upright Bush           | Thick leathery leaves, crimson flower buds. Begins flowering in mid-summer continuing into fall.            |
| <b>Red Rocket</b>       | Deep Red            | 20ft +  |                        |   |
| <b>Royal Velvet</b>     | Bright Pink         | 8-12ft  | Upright Bush           | Vigorous grower, early bloomer, attractive 'wine'-colored new growth with crimson flower buds               |
| <b>Seminole</b>         | Pink                | 10-15ft | Compact Globose Bush   | Early prolific bloomer with large flowers, fall leaf color-yellow   |
| <b>Sioux</b>            | Bright Pink         | 10-20ft | Dense Upright Bush     | "Best Pink" dark foliage, copper colored exfoliating bark, outstanding flowers, fall leaf color-maroon      |
| <b>Tuskegee</b>         | Dark Pin k          | 10-20ft | Broad Spreading Tree   | Blooms better as plant matures, good exfoliating bark, fall leaf color-red/orange                           |
| <b>Tuscarora</b>        | Watermelon Red      | 20+ft   | Broad Vase Shaped Tree | Fast grower, good heavy bloomer, nice exfoliating bark, excellent street tree, fall leaf color-red/orange   |
| <b>Victor</b>           | Dark Red            | 3-5ft   | Compact Dwarf Bush     | Excellent plant for a small area, very hardy, abundant flowers, fall leaf color-yellow                      |
| <b>Velma's Delight</b>  | Dark Purple         | 5-10ft  |                        |   |
| <b>Tonto</b>            | Dark Red            | 8-12ft  | Upright Bush           | 'Best med. size red' dark foliage with white exfoliating bark, fall leaf color-maroon                       |
| <b>Zuni</b>             | Lavender            | 8-12ft  | Upright Bush           | Rich flower color, dark foliage, white exfoliating bark, fall leaf color-red/orange                         |