

Crape Myrtle Care

One of the most beautiful flowering trees in our area is the crape myrtle. They provide summer color and winter interest with minimum maintenance.

For best flowering, crape myrtles should be planted in full sun (6 to 8 hours of direct sunlight) in an open location to ensure air circulation. They should be watered thoroughly at planting time and deeply once a week for the first few months. Established crape myrtles will tolerate drought, but flowering is enhanced if they are watered during dry periods. To conserve moisture, reduce weeds, and insulate the roots, 2 to 4 inches of mulch should be placed over the roots, keeping it 3 to 6 inches away from the trunk. For young crape myrtles, use a low nitrogen fertilizer in spring and fall; older plants usually derive nutrients from fertilizer used on lawns.

To develop a tree shape, select 3 to 5 shoots at the main trunks and then remove the side branches from these shoots about halfway up their height. As the plant grows taller, additional lower branches can be removed each year. You also will need to remove suckers that grow from the base. Pruning should be done in the spring before new growth appears.

Johnson's carries several varieties of crape myrtles, which range in size from 3 to 30 feet.

Dwarf (3 to 5 ft.)

Chickasaw - pink-lavender
Dazzle Me Pink - bright pink
Pocomoke - deep rose-pink
Ruby Dazzle - dark pink
Snow Dazzle - white
Tightwad Red - light red

Semi-dwarf (5 to 10 ft.)

Acoma - white
Hopi - medium pink
Tonto - fuchsia
Zuni - lavender

Small tree (10 to 20 ft.)

Catawba - violet-purple
Centennial Spirit - bright crimson
Country Red - red
Lipan - lavender
Osage - clear light pink
Pink Velour - bright pink
Seminole - clear medium pink
Sioux - dark pink
Yuma - light lavender

Medium-tall tree (20 ft. +)

Chocktaw - bright pink
Dynamite - true red
Miami - dark coral pink
Muskogee - light lavender
Red Rocket - red
Sarah's Favorite - white
Tuscarora - dark coral pink
Tuskegee - dark pink
Biloxi - pale pink
Natchez - white

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