

# 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

WASHINGTON, DC  
4200 Wisconsin Ave, NW  
at Van Ness St

[www.johnsonsfloorists.com](http://www.johnsonsfloorists.com)  
KENSINGTON, MD  
10313 Kensington Pkwy  
next to the Post Office

OLNEY, MD  
5011 Olney-Laytonsville Rd  
Rt 108 and Zion Rd

