

CRAPE MYRTLES

“Cilac of the South”

A MOST VERSATILE AND BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPE PLANT,
BUT
A MOST ABUSED PLANT.
AVOID “CRAPE MURDER”



INFORMATION ON SELECTION OF CRAPE MYRTLES
AND
PROPER PRUNING TECHNIQUES

Provided by the



Variety information obtained from Crape Myrtle Comparison Chart
Byers Wholesale Nursery, Inc.
Huntsville, Alabama 1996



Unfortunately, there are too many examples of “Crape Murder” in East Texas, which could be avoided by selection of the proper variety for the desired planting location. Since the mature size of a crape myrtle can vary from a miniature to a tree over twenty feet tall, one should select from the many available varieties to match the mature size for the plant location so that one will not be guilty of “Crape Murder”. If crape myrtles are pruned so severely as shown in the picture on the left, new growth will be so weak that the heavy flower bloom heads will cause the limbs to droop unnaturally and even break.

The key to the proper pruning of crape myrtles is to never trim anything larger than a pencil. Crape myrtles as shown in the picture on the right, do not have to be pruned at all, but if the first spent blooms are cut off the crape myrtle will bloom a second time in a season. Properly pruned crape myrtles can become wonderful accent plants in the landscape in all seasons of the year with colorful and graceful flowers, pretty fall color and shiny and defoliating bark of different colors.



CRAPE MYRTLE VARIETIES AND CHARACTERISTICS

<u>Cultivar</u>	<u>Flower Color</u>	<u>Habit</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Exfoliating Bark</u>	<u>Mildew Resistance</u>	<u>Fall Color</u>	<u>First Flower</u>	<u>Days of Flower</u>
<u>Miniature</u>								
Chickasaw	Pinkish Lavender	compact mound	hybrid	none	high	yellow	mid July	110
Pocomoke	Deep Rose-Pink	compact mound	hybrid	none	high	bronze red	mid July	110
<u>3 to 5 Feet</u>								
Centennial	Bright Purple	compact, globose	indica	average	good	orange	mid June	70
Hope	White	open, globose	indica	average	good	yellow	mid June	65
<u>5 to 10 feet</u>								
Acoma White	low spreading	hybrid	great	high	purple red	late June	90	
Hopi	Medium Pink	low globose	hybrid	great	high	orange red	late June	100
Tonto	Red	compact globose	hybrid	good	high	bright maroon	mid July	75
Velma's Royal Delight	Magenta	compact upright	indica	average	good	light maroon	July	65
Zuni	Medium Lavender	globose	hybrid	good	high	red orange	early July	100
<u>Mature Height 10 to 20 Feet</u>								
Appalachee	Light Lavender	upright vase	hybrid	great	high	russet	mid July	90
Catawba	Violet Purple	upright	indica	average	good	red orange	mid July	70
Centennial Spirit	Dark Red	upright	indica	average	good	red orange	late June	110
Cherokee	Soft Red	compact upright	indica	average	good	orange red	mid July	80
Comanche	Coral Pink	broad crown	hybrid	great	high	red	early July	80
Near East	Light Pink	open spreading	indica	average	moderate	yellow orange	mid July	90
Osage	Clear Pink	pendulous globose	hybrid	great	high	red	July	100
Raspberry Sundae	Pinkish Red w/White	almost columnar	indica	average	fair	maroon	mid July	60
Sioux	Vibrant Pink	dense upright	hybrid	great	high	red	late July	90
Tuskegee	Dark Pink	broad spreading	hybrid	great	high	red orange	late June	100
Yuma	Medium Lavender	broadly upright	hybrid	good	good	yellow orange	late July	90
<u>Mature Height 20 feet or More</u>								
Basham's Party Pink	Light Lavender	broad tall tree	hybrid	good	good	orange red	late June	80
Biloxi	Pale Pink	upright vase	hybrid	great	high	orange red	early July	80
Byers Wonderful White	Clear White	upright vase	indica	average	good	yellow	late June	90
Carolina Beauty	Dark Red	very upright	indica	average	poor	orange	mid July	65
Choctaw	Bright Pink	small tree	hybrid	great	high	maroon	mid July	90
Fauriei Species	White	various	fauriei	great	high	red orange	late June	80
Miami	Dark Pink	upright	hybrid	great	high	orange	early July	100
Muskogee	Light Lavender	broad tall tree	hybrid	good	high	red orange	mid June	110
Natchez	White	broad tall tree	hybrid	great	high	red orange	mid June	110
Potomac	Clear Pink	upright	indica	average	high	orange	late June	90
Tuscarora	Dark Pink	broad vase	hybrid	great	high	red orange	early July	70
Wichita	Lavender	upright vase	hybrid	great	high	copper	early July	110