

CRAPE MYRTLES

Quintessential Southern Charm

Long loved for their abundant summer flowers, the official tree(s) of Guilford County also exhibit interesting exfoliating bark and excellent fall color. Crape myrtles range in color from white through pink, lavender and red and in size from 3 feet to 30 feet. In fact, literally hundreds of varieties exist. At New Garden, we can't carry them all but we try to have a good selection. Unfortunately, crape myrtle availability is seasonal, and; even during the season some of the more popular varieties may be in short supply. In addition, some varieties may only be available in one particular size. The following varieties are some of our favorites:

PINK FLOWERS

SIOUX: Upright broad form 14-17' H X 10-11' W, intense pink flowers June— October, bright red fall color, gray bark underlain with brown.

TUSCARORA: Upright and Spreading 15-18' H with a similar width, dark coral-pink flowers June—July to September, red fall color and mottled brown bark.

MIAMI: Upright form 14-17' H X 10' W, coral-pink flowers July—September, Orange fall color, chestnut brown bark.

BILOXI: Upright with an arched crown 20' H X 12' W, pale pink flowers July—late September, orange-red fall color, gray-brown bark.

CHOCTAW: Vase-shaped habit nearly 20' H and W, Bright Pink flowers June—August, bronze to maroon fall color, gray-cinnamon brown bark.

ROYAL VELVET: Upright shrub form 10-12' H, burgundy wine foliage that turns purple-green at maturity and accents its bright pink flowers. Mildew free. Royal Velvet is perhaps the most cold-hardy variety, having withstood temperatures of minus 8 degrees.

HOP: Spreading habit 8' H X 10' W, medium-pink flowers June to late September, orange-red fall color.

PINK RUFFLES: Dwarf upright form 3-5' H, pink flowers July –September.

RASPBERRY SUNDAE: Upright habit with a few spreading branches, 15 to 18 feet tall and 15 feet wide. Nice crimson pink flowers. New foliage is also crimson.

CHICKASAW: 3' by 3', a true dwarf crape myrtle. Nice leaf texture with a pinkish flower.

RED FLOWERS

CENTENNIAL SPIRIT: Upright 15-20' H X 10-15' W, dark wine-red flowers July to September, red-orange fall color. Cold tolerant to minus 4 degrees.

TONTO: Broad form 10' H X 8' W, dark brick-red to fuchsia flowers, bright maroon fall color,

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Crape Myrtles do well in Greensboro, but we do recommend soil conditioner, a good starter fertilizer, and plenty of water for newly planted trees.



Crape Myrtles cont.

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Crape Myrtles flower on each year's new growth; therefore, young trees should be lightly pruned each year to encourage thick new growth and increased flowering. As a rule, prune back to finger-thick limbs in February. For more mature trees, remove seed heads and lightly prune accessible limbs.

The popular 'tree-form' appearance can be achieved by removing smaller branches and side limbs beginning at the bottom. This can be done just about any time but is probably easiest in winter. Severe pruning is unnecessary and harmful.

Add triple super phosphate in mid-April to increase the quantity and quality of blooms.

Add dolomitic limestone to the soil beneath the tree's canopy in January to prevent powdery mildew.

brown and cream bark.

BATON ROUGE: Dwarf "weeping" variety 3-5' H with deep red flowers.

CHICA: Dwarf form about 3' H, medium red flowers July into September.

DYNAMITE: A true red! Fifteen to twenty feet tall and wide. Beautiful new foliage is crimson, eventually changing to a leathery green. Highly resistant to powdery mildew!

PURPLE FLOWERS

CATAWBA: Globose medium habit 12-14' H X W, true deep purple flowers late July—September, reddish fall color.

NEW ORLEANS: Dwarf "weeping" habit about 3' H with medium purple flowers.

LAVENDER FLOWERS

MUSKOGEE: Fast-growing tree 25-30'H X 10-15' W, light lavender flowers July to September, mottled tan bark.

CENTENNIAL: Dwarf form 3-5'H, bright Lavender flowers begin in June, orange fall color, good mildew resistance.

POKEMOKE: True dwarf, 1-2' tall and wide with lovely pinkish-lavender flower.

WHITE FLOWERS

NATCHEZ: Fast-growing tree to 20+' H X W, White flowers June—September, bronze-orange fall color, mottled cinnamon bark appears when plants are about 5 years old.

ACOMA: Wide-spreading, 12' H X W, white flowers late June—September, purple-red fall color, light gray exfoliating bark.

FANTASY: Large, fast-growing tree to 25 +' H and nearly that wide. White flowers June—August. This variety flowers better with age. An outstanding specimen exists at N.C. State.

NOTE: The varieties above were developed by the National Arboretum and tend to be more cold hardy and mildew resistant.



New Garden Landscaping & Nursery

"Where your imagination takes root"