

With hundreds of sizes and colors available, crepe (or crape) myrtles are a terrific, low-maintenance choice for prolific blooms during hot, humid summers. Nowadays, many varieties are hybrids that maximize the colorful blooms of the common crepe myrtle and/or the distinctive bark, cold hardiness, and disease-resistance of the Japanese crepe myrtle.

Crepe myrtles bloom in midsummer, with colors including white, lavender, purple, pink, magenta, and red. After blooming, they develop distinctive seed heads, and then the leaves tend to fall toward the end of autumn, leaving the colorful, exfoliating bark for the winter. Some have beautiful fall color.

Selecting Crepe Myrtles

Crepe myrtles truly come in every possible size and shape, from knee-high shrubby dwarf plants to large tree forms, so it is possible to choose a variety that exactly fits your purpose. You don't need to get one that's too large for the spot. When choosing crepe myrtles for your yard, there are several factors to consider including: height, natural shape (shrub vs. tree), flower and fall color, and amount of bark exfoliation.

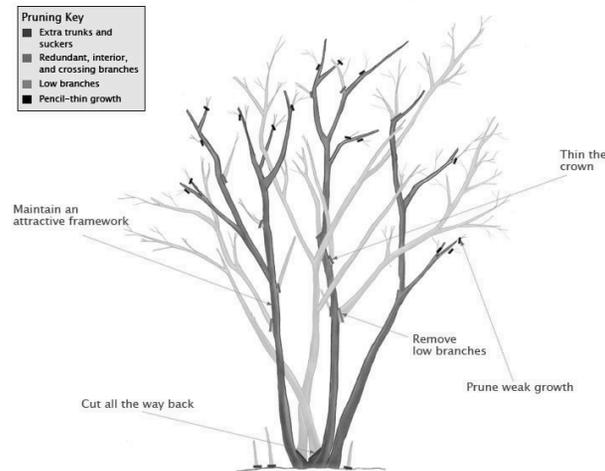
Planting Crepe Myrtles

Ideally, crepe myrtles should be planted in cool weather when they're dormant, but it's fine if you can't. They do require full, all day sun.

- Dig a hole twice the width of the root ball.
- Plant your crepe myrtle at the same depth it was in the nursery pot, and backfill with compost mixed with the soil.
- Apply 1" - 3" of mulch around the base of your crepe myrtle. But don't let the mulch come right up to the trunk, which will rot it.
- Water your new crepe myrtle thoroughly before and after planting. Water newly planted crepe myrtles at least once a week if dormant and in cool weather, and up to 3 times a week if planted during hot weather or in very sandy soil. Water new plants regularly for about two months, and water during drought for better blooms and healthier plants.

PRUNING CREPE MYRTLES

Stop! Don't Chop!
Don't commit crepe murder.



- Prune in late winter. February is ideal.
- Remove suckers at the base, crossing or rubbing branches, and branches growing inward toward the center of the plant.
- When pruning branches, cut back to just above an outward-facing bud on a branch, or to the branch collar (a swollen area where the branch joins the trunk). Never leave lone or clustered stubs. Think about the shape you want – a small tree, or a bush?
- NEVER just top all the branches! It can result in ugly, bunchy growth, and knobby stems that may be more susceptible to aphids and disease.
- Try to maintain the tree's natural shape.
- Try to remove unwanted branches before they get thicker than a pencil.
- It's unnecessary to cut off old seedheads. They will bloom just fine either way.
- Call us; we can do all this for you!

Inland Bays Garden Center

Gardening to make a difference
38320 Muddy Neck Road
Frankford, DE 19945
302-539-1839

CREPE MYRTLES



The crepe myrtles are among the most satisfactory plants for our area: showy summer flowers, attractive bark, and (in many cases) brilliant fall color make them year-round garden performers. They range in size from dwarf selections that grow less than 3 feet tall to several that reach upwards of 30 feet. Knowing the mature height of a plant before you buy it, and planting the proper size for the spot will save you much heartache and backache in the future.

SMALL SHRUB

Pocomoke
 Dazzle family
 Midnight Magic
 Victor

SIZE

2' – 4' tall and wide
 3' – 5' tall and wide
 4' – 6' tall & wide
 3-6' tall, 2-4' wide

COLOR

Rose pink
 Different colors
 Dark pink
 Red

COMMENTS

Upright, dense shrub. Good fall color.
 Shrub. Good in containers.
 Superb green/maroon foliage.
 Upright shrub. Good fall color.

MEDIUM SHRUB or Small Tree

Acoma
 Hopi
 Red Rooster
 Pink Velour
 Purple Magic
 Tonto

6' - 7' tall and wide
 7' tall x 10' wide
 8'-10' tall x 4'-5' wide
 10' x 10'
 6' – 10' tall & wide
 8' x 8' tall and wide

White
 Salmon pink
 Red
 Bright pink
 Purple
 Magenta red

Vase/weeping shape. Good fall color and pretty bark.
 Round/vase shape. Good fall color, nice bark.
 Upright & narrow. Foliage comes in reddish then turns green.
 Upright growth, good orangeish fall color.
 New growth reddish then matures to dark green.
 Upright growth. Great, red orange fall color.

SMALL TREE

Catawba
 Centennial
 Muskogee
 Natchez
 Rhapsody in Pink
 Sioux
 Tuscarora

15' x 15'
 16'-20' tall & wide
 15'-20' tall x 15' wide
 15' – 20' tall and wide
 10' tall x 12' wide
 12'-15' tall and wide
 12'-15' tall and wide

Purple
 Rose red
 Lavender pink
 White
 Soft pink
 Medium pink
 Pinkish coral

Round shape. Foliage bronze tinge in spring
 Round/vase shape. Red/orange fall color.
 Round/vase shape. Red fall color.
 Vase shape. Good fall foliage and pretty bark
 New foliage comes in purple, then shades to green.
 Upright growth. Good fall color.
 Arching, vase shape. Good fall color.

TREE

Dynamite

20' – 25' tall

Cherry red

Upright growth. Orange red fall color.