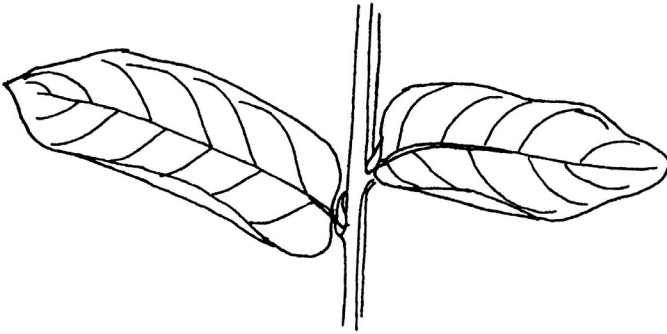


Leaf Identification



Crapemyrtle
(*Lagerstroemia indica*)

Crapemyrtle is a medium-sized shrub or small tree reaching 15'-20' tall with a 6'-15' spread. It is multi-stemmed with dense branching, but can be pruned to a single trunk.

The glossy leaves are medium to dark green in summer, changing to yellow, orange, and red in fall. The striking flowers hang in 6"-8" panicles and have wrinkled petals like crepe paper, which range in color from white to pink to purple to deep red. They bloom from late spring and summer into fall and are followed by small clusters of red-brown berries. Butterflies and birds are attracted to this shrub.

Crapemyrtle adapts to a wide range of soil textures, dry to moist soil, acidic to slightly alkaline, and full sun to light shade. Once established, it is very drought-resistant. Plant 3'-6' apart for hedge.

New growth can be pinched to increase flower number. The lower branches are often thinned to show off the trunk form and color. Because pruning can directly affect cold hardiness, you should try to have it completed by early August. This shrub has a fast growth rate.