

# You Can Grow Crape Myrtle

Introduced from China during Colonial times, Crape Myrtle is one of the South's finest ornamentals. In Maryland, Virginia and other Southern States, Crape Myrtle can grow up to 20' tall. But, in our climate, it is unusual for a plant to grow 6' tall. The delicate ruffled flowers are quite showy throughout the late summer (Mid-August to Mid-September). It's smooth, light colored bark is very attractive. It is virtually pest-free. By doing the following steps, you can keep your Crape Myrtle plant alive over the winter, so you can enjoy those beautiful ruffles flowers each summer.

## Care Instruction for Crape Myrtle

- Give plant a thorough soaking around Nov. 1st.
- Place 2' wire fence cylinder around the plant in Mid-November and fill with dry leaves to insulate stems and root stock over winter.
- When temperature moderates (usually toward Mid-April) remove wire cylinder and leaves. Keep a 3" layer of bark mulch around the base.
- When plant starts to show new growth, trim off any branches that are dead, back to the new growth.
- Fertilize mid to late spring with a high phosphorus fertilizer.
- Since Crape Myrtle forms flowers on the new seasons growth, do not trim Crape Myrtle after the new growth starts appearing in early spring.

## Stauffers Best Crape Myrtle

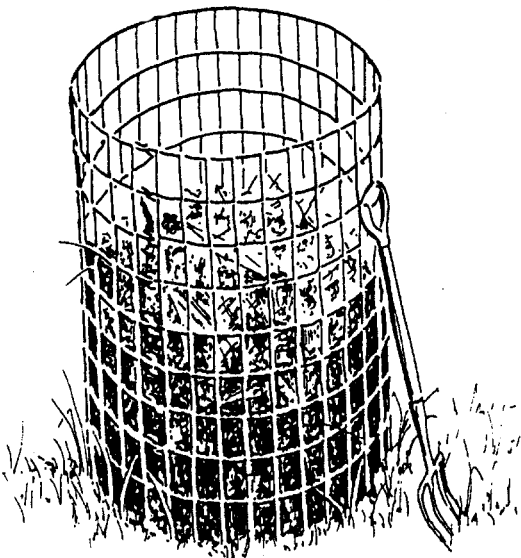
**Dynamite** - Deep red-pink blooms with white accents. New growth crimson. Orange fall color.

**Hopi** - Light, pink flowers on a compact plant. Very cold hardy.

**Pink Velour** - Burgundy foliage with lush deep reddish-pink blooms.

**Tonto** - Deep pink-red blooms with glossy green foliage.

**Zuni** - Lavender-purple blooms with glossy green foliage. Red-orange fall color.



## Planting Instructions:

- Dig hole 2 times larger than diameter of pot and the same depth of the pot.
- Prepare special planting mixture: 1/3 topsoil and 2/3 Stauffers Premium Planting Mix. (Excellent soil conditions may require less peat & perlite.)
- Fill extra depth of hole with soil mixture and tamp firmly to eliminate settling after the bush is planted.
- Remove the plant from the container. "Scoring" the root ball with your fingers or a sharp tool will loosen the fine roots.
- Place plant in the hole with top of root ball level or 1" above ground level.
- Fill hole 1/2 full with soil mix and tamp firmly to prevent air pockets.
- Soak thoroughly several times. After water soaks away, finish back filling to soil level with soil mix. (Shrubs planted too deep will result in death.)
- Spread a fine layer of mulch around the shrub being sure not to cover-up branches or pile against stems. Create a small basin with mulch around the edge of the hole to retain water.
- Fill basin with water several times, soaking plant thoroughly.
- Apply a root stimulator to the base of the plant as per the manufacturer's recommendations. Apply monthly during the growing season to encourage a healthy deep root system.
- Water newly installed plants every 2-4 days for the first month, by placing a hose at the base of the plant, letting it trickle slowly until saturated. This is preferable over shallow watering every day. (Be careful of over watering when planting in heavy clay soils.) Deep roots are developed by deep watering. Continue deep watering every 1-2 weeks, depending on rainfall amounts, for the first year until the ground freezes for the winter. (Remember, if a plant looks like it needs water, it is often too late!)