

# Crepe Myrtle

The crepe myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*) is a species of small, beautiful tree native to Asia that has naturalized in the Deep South of the United States. So often used in landscaping is *Lagerstroemia indica* that as you travel around some areas of the country, you will see its presence in almost every yard. Though certainly not unique, its common use is a testament to its stunning blossoms, peeling bark, and attractive fall foliage that gives the crepe myrtle unrivaled all-season interest.

To get the most prolific blooms with the best color from your tree, pay attention to the amount of sunlight. Crepe myrtle needs full sun to thrive. You should place it in a spot in your landscape that gets at least six hours of sun a day. Anything less and you will notice a big fall off on blossoms.

Crepe myrtle is not too demanding regarding [soil pH](#), but it prefers neutral or slightly acidic soil over alkaline soil. However, it does get finicky with its soil moisture. The soil must be well-draining; a crepe myrtle cannot tolerate standing water, because it is susceptible to root rot. You will also want to avoid very rich soil since this produces more foliage than the desired flowers.

