

How to Care for a CRAPE MYRTLE Shrub
Lagerstroemia indica

SELECT SITE:

Light Requirements: Full Sun => 6 hours per day

This shrub will grow larger; Space 60 in. away from other plants or structures

Tolerates a wide range of soils, prefers rich moist loam.

Versatile Plant for:

Accent plant around the patio. To grow in northern regions as a container plant.

Mass or group in shrub border. As a driveway or border Hedge. Near the home foundation.

Ideal USDA Plant Hardiness Zones: 7,8,9

PLANT PREP:

Open box upon arrival, remove packing materials to let the plant "breathe". Remove plastic bag, tape, and newspaper. Water well. There are drainage holes in the bottom of the pot so do this outside where the extra water will drain away.

HOLE PREP:

Dig saucer shaped hole. The depth is determined by measuring the height of the roots from root flare to bottom. The width is 2-3 times the root ball diameter. Using these calculations, the ideal hole for the new bush will be approximately 20" tall by 24-30" wide. To plant in a container, select a pretty pot that is at least 12" in diameter.

PLANTING:

Put garden soil in a wheelbarrow or on a tarp. Mix the garden soil with equal amounts of mulch, peat moss, and potting soil. Place plant in hole and adjust for aesthetics. Hold in place while adding more soil, until the hole is completely filled. Push soil down until firm. Do not plant the shrub deeper than it has already been growing. Water well immediately after planting. Mulch evenly to a depth of 2-3 inches being sure to stay at least 4" away from its trunk.

FUTURE MAINTENANCE:

Water well regularly, in the form of 1" of rainfall or irrigation per week (equivalent to a 5-gallon bucket full), often more frequently in extremely warm areas or if in a pot. In northern climates where the plant is in a pot (recommended in USDA Plant Zones 1-6), after plant goes dormant in late fall and before winter weather sets in, bring inside to a protected, unheated area. If desired, fertilize in spring when new growth begins. Apply 2 tbsp. of an all-purpose slow release fertilizer upon the ground in a band around the plant at least 6" away from its stem. Can be pruned in late winter to early spring, if desired.