

How to Care for a **CRAPE MYRTLE Shrub** *Lagerstroemia indica* ‘Muskogee, ‘Natchez, ‘Sioux, ‘Tuscarora

SELECT SITE:

Light Requirements: Full Sun => 6 hours per day

Will tolerate a lightly shaded site, however, best flowering is in full sun

This shrub will grow larger; Space 15 ft. away from other plants or structures

Tolerates a wide range of soils; thrives in moderately fertile, moist yet well drained soil.

A favorite small tree for either formal or informal landscapes, near the patio, specimen.

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 10” tall by 24-30” wide.

PLANTING:

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:

Check soil weekly for moisture. Water thoroughly when dry. Adequate water until the ground freezes is necessary to sustain the plant during winter.

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. Repeat fertilizer regimen every 3 months, stopping at least 2 months prior to first frost date.

Prune in late winter or early spring by the technique that works best in your own yard. Remove just dead/crossed wood and old flower stalks only (recommended). Cut nearly to the ground to revitalize entire plant. Or, top the plant to create several long, thin branches from each cut which then will droop down under the weight of the upcoming flowers. (most common but not recommended). Always remove any suckers when they appear.