

Lagerstroemia indica L.

(Crape Myrtle)



Notes

Requires pruning if single trunk is desired. Good tree with high urban tolerance that can be utilised in a number of different informal and formal landscapes. Good street value and size makes it suitable for use under powerlines.

Hybrids between *L. indica* and *L. fauriei* are worth considering due to assured flower colour and resistance to certain pathogens, hybrids include 'Natchez' with white flowers, 'Tuscarora' with dark coral-pink flowers and 'Biloxi' with pale pink flowers.

Name commemorates Magnus Lagerstroem, Swedish friend of Linnaeus.

Origin	South China, Korea, India & Burma.
Habit	Small deciduous tree with ascending branches and multi trunk habit. Generally with broad vase shaped canopy, though some variation occurs. Moderate to slow growing mature dimensions range between 3-6m high x 3-6m wide in cultivation.
Description	Small oval shaped leaves emerge yellowish-green, bronze to reddish purple in colour, maturing to a medium to dark green. Showy autumnal colour range from yellow to orange and red. Bark is smooth, brown-grey sometimes with an almost metallic lustre, and when sloughed reveals a more mottled brown and grey appearance. Flowers are borne in terminal clusters of branched cymes, colours range from white; pink; purple; lavender to dark red. Fruit is a capsule approximately 1cm long.
Tolerances	Adapts to a range of soils. Moderate to high drought tolerance. Prefers full sun for best flower display. Species is susceptible to powdery mildew, though some hybrids are resistant.
Root space	Based on mature size tree would require approximately 28m ² area or 17m ³ root volume (Crown projection method).
Availability	Species is common. Numbers can be limited on hybrids.

Reference

Gilman, E. F. (1997) *Trees for urban and suburban landscapes*.

Delmar. Spencer, R. (2002) *Horticultural flora of South-eastern Australia*. Flowering Plants – Dicotyledons Part 2. UNSW Press

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