

Growing Instructions

Calif. NEMA Certification # 0255. USDA Cert # FL0883. Certified All States.

Leaf dropping is normal during shipping. You will see wilting, crispy leaves when you plant them. Water when they arrive. Just don't overwater but keep soil slightly moist. Again, leaves that are on the plants when shipped may become wilted and crispy. This is a normal process prior to the new buds sprouting when planted.

On cool spring nights Crape Myrtles will wilt if their roots get cold. As it warms up they will perk back up. In 38 years of shipping we have found that plants ship better dry. Leaf dropping and dry plants are NORMAL in shipping of Woody Perennials. Do not water the plants every day because you may kill them. DO NOT FERTILIZE THE FIRST YEAR.

Northern areas:

We now have Crape Myrtles growing just about everywhere, here are some hints if you are in the NORTH:

- 1) DO NOT fertilize the FIRST YEAR.
- 2) STOP ALL CARE including watering in September to toughen them up for Winter.
- 3) All Crape Myrtles usually come back from the roots in June so don't dig them up even if the tops are dead and brittle. This happens in severe winters.
- 4) Mulch 2"-4". Some people cover them in severe cold.

SPACING: Miniatures 14" to 18", Dwarfs 4-6 feet apart, Medium and Tall Trees 8 to 12 feet apart. Plant closer if you want to block a neighbor which is the most common reason for close spacing.

(Take your crape myrtles out of the bag and look for the popsicle stick name tag)

2 Letter Abbreviation: Each TAG is labeled with 2 Letters ie, WF stands for Worlds Fair, HO stands for Hopi, NO stands for New Orleans, Zu stands for Zuni etc. etc.

This tells you what varieties you bought. Compare these 2 letters with the Invoice which we return to you

Plants are intentionally shipped dry. Water plants immediately. Place the plants in the sun and in about a week you will see all the dormant buds begin to grow and **the plants will come back fuller and with more branches** than when they left the nursery.

Remember, these crape myrtles can take a lot of cold weather if they are first acclimated to the cold. That means don't take the plants straight out of the box and place them outdoors if the temperature can drop much below freezing. If you gradually let them prepare themselves for cold by being outdoors for several months, they can survive weather that will kill most annuals and perennials.

Is there a secret to growing beautiful Crape Myrtles?

Yes, and that secret is using a peat moss based potting soil in the hole you dig. See other page. Picture in your mind 2 one gallon milk jugs one on top of the other. That is the size of the hole you will dig for every tree you are planting. Throw the dirt you dig away. Fill the hole with Miracle Grow potting soil (has peat moss in it) and take the Crape out of the pot and stick it down into the soil just a little lower, deeper than what it was in the pot. Water and mulch it. You're finished. Start on next pot.

Light: They grow best in full sun and partial shade.

Soil Type: Crape Myrtles grow in all soil types. Follow planting instructions on other page. For MINI pots, whiskey barrels and hanging baskets use a light peat moss based soil (like Miracle Grow) for fastest growth and flowering.

Watering: They do well in any moisture situation from semi-dry to rainy.

Fertilizing: Fertilize during second growing season with any of the water-soluble fertilizers such as Peters or Miracle Grow. Any analysis (like 20-20-20) about every 2 weeks works well. Osmocote type fertilizers also work well.

www.crapemyrtle.com