



Lagerstroemia x 'Tuscarora' **(Crape Myrtle)**

Height 18' to 25'

Spread 15' to 18'

Growth rate Medium

Bloom Color Coral Pink

Bloom Time Spring; Summer

Environment

This tree grows best in full sun with rich moist soil, but has also been successfully grown in urban areas where air pollution, poor drainage, compacted soils, drought and limited soil spaces are common. Will grow in a wide range of soil PH and has moderate salt tolerance.

Description

This deciduous tree is recommended for planting in urban areas. It has a long flowering season, good fall color and exfoliating bark, it also has good drought tolerance once it becomes established. It will grow in zones 7 through 9 but is not a native of North America.

Culture Notes

Pruning methods vary but it should be pruned in late winter or early spring before growth begins. This tree is considered mostly allergy free and causes little or no allergy problems.

Pests and Diseases

Host specific aphids that only affect Crape Myrtles can infest the new growth causing an unsightly but harmless black sooty mold to grow on the foliage. Many beneficial insects use this aphid for food; therefore Crape Myrtles that attract aphids can enhance biological control of insect pests on other plants in the landscape. Tuscarora is resistant to powdery mildew.

Maintain adequate mulch area

Clear all turf away from beneath the branches and mulch to the drip line, especially on young trees to reduce competition with turf and weeds. This will allow roots to become well established and keep plants healthier. Apply a thinner layer of mulch directly over the root ball but keep it away from the trunk. This allows rainwater, irrigation and air to easily enter the root ball and keeps the trunk dry. Placing mulch against the trunk and applying too thick a layer above the root ball can kill the tree.

Tree establishment Specifications

Choose good quality trees for planting and locate the tree properly, taking into account the ultimate size, since the tree looks best if it is not pruned to control size.

The most common cause of young tree failure is planting too deep. In most instances, the point where the top most roots in the root ball originate from the trunk should be located just above the soil surface.

Trees with good, strong structure need no pruning at planting, except to remove broken twigs. Do not remove branches to compensate for root loss, research has shown that this can be detrimental to establishment.