



# GREEN

## T I P S



**From Cato Environmental Services, Inc.**

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Welcome to another addition of GREEN TIPS. I've decided to make this issue completely about crepe myrtles. I have received more questions about Lagerstroemia indica than I can count. I hope you enjoy this brief history and maintenance guide.

The term 'Crepe Myrtles' refers to several Lagerstroemia species and hybrids that are deciduous shrubs or small trees with origin in China, Japan, and other parts of Southeast Asia. Crepe Myrtles were first introduced 150 years ago.

Crepe Myrtles should not be pruned hard on an annual or regular basis. Severe pruning can induce excess vegetative growth, basal sprouting, and fewer flowers. For best flowering results full sun is required.

Established Crepe Myrtles usually do not need fertilizer because root systems extend into lawns where they can absorb nutrients from lawn applications. All trees should be considered when fertilizing turf with any pest control (weed control, insect control, etc.) Spot spraying ensures chemicals are not absorbed by root systems other than the weed intended.

It is always a good idea to choose a variety that will grow to suit the area in the garden where it will grow. Below is a list of Crepe Myrtles that will suit any area. Each example is one of many choices. Check you local garden center for availability.

<u>CULTIVAR</u>	<u>FLOWER COLOR</u>	<u>BARK COLOR</u>	<u>HABIT</u>	<u>POWDER MILDEW</u>
DWARF VARIETY (Height less than 4 feet after 5 years)				
Orlando	Lavender Purple	Tan	Mounded	Fair
SEMI-DWARF VARIETY (Height less than 12 feet after 10 years)				
Tonto	Fuschia Red	Light Brown	Rounded	Good
INTERMEDIATE VARIETY (Height less than 20 feet after 10 years)				
Seminole	Medium Pink	Tan	Rounded	Fair
TREE VARIETY (Height greater than 20 feet after 10 years)				
Natchez	White	Cinnamon Brown	Vase-Shaped	Excellent

Thank you for taking the time to read GREEN TIPS and good luck in your gardening. We love to hear your questions and comments. Please call Brian Cato at 407-402-3005 or email [catolandscape@yahoo.com](mailto:catolandscape@yahoo.com).