

Crepe Myrtle

Lagerstroemia x 'Biloxi'

A long period of striking summer flower color, attractive fall foliage, and moderate drought-tolerance all combine to make 'Biloxi' Crape-Myrtle a favorite small tree for either formal or informal landscapes. The 6- to 12-inch-long clustered pink blooms appear on the tips of branches during the summer. The individual flowers are ruffled and crinkly as to appear made of crepe paper. Crape-Myrtle grows best in full sun with rich, moist soil but will tolerate less hospitable positions in the landscape once it becomes established. Remove the spent flower heads to encourage a second flush of flowers. Lower branches are often thinned to show off the trunk form and color. Since cultivars are now available in a wide range of growth heights, severe pruning should not be necessary to control size. Severe pruning can stimulate basal sprouting which can become a constant nuisance, requiring regular removal.

Type: perennial

USDA hardiness zones: 7a through 9b

Uses: border; mass planting; container or above-

Origin: not native to Florida

Height: 15 to 25 feet **Spread:** 15 to 25 feet

Plant spacing: 24 to 36 inches

Light requirement: plant grows in full sun

Soil tolerances: sand; loam; clay; acidic; slightly alkaline; well-drained

Drought tolerance: high

Aerosol salt tolerances: moderate

Invasive potential: little invasive potential

Pest resistance: resistant to pests/diseases

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Photo: Ed Gilman, UF/IFAS