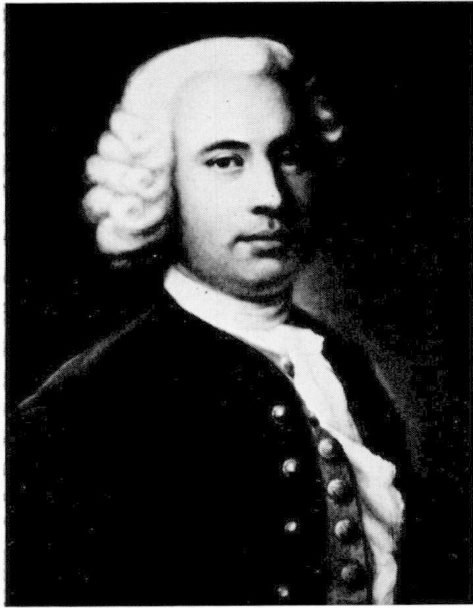


Crape Myrtle

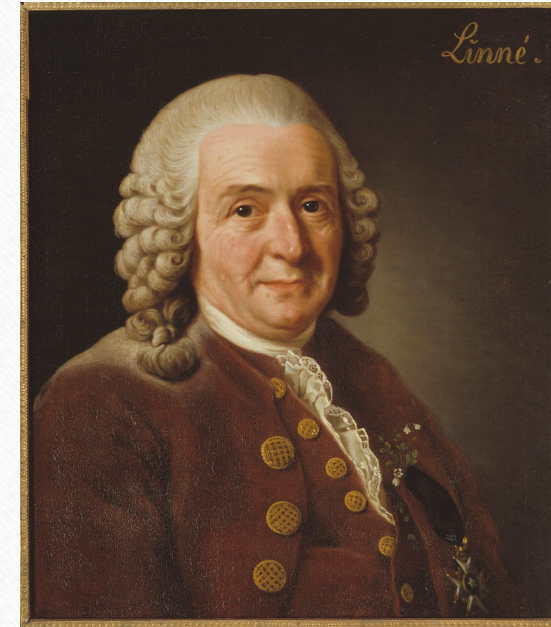
(*Lagerstromia indica*)





Magnus von Lagerstrom
(1696-1759)

**Swedish naturalist &
Director Swedish East India Company**

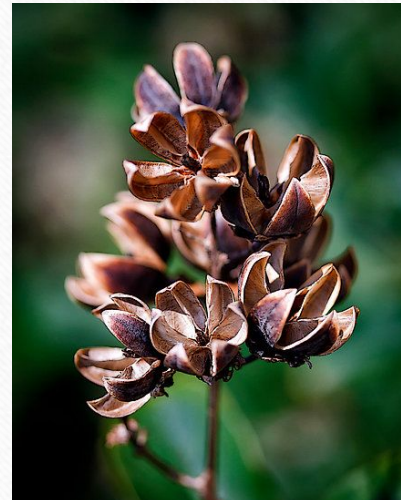


Carl Linnaeus
(1707 to 1778)

**Swedish zoologist and botanist his work led
to the creation of modern-day biological
nomenclature for classifying organisms.
This work has led to Linnaeus' distinction
as the father of taxonomy.**



Flowers are simple,
alternate and dicot. Leaves
opposite and simple with
entire margins & vary 2-8
in.



Fruit capsule, dried pods and winged seeds



Examples of colorful Crape Myrtle bark



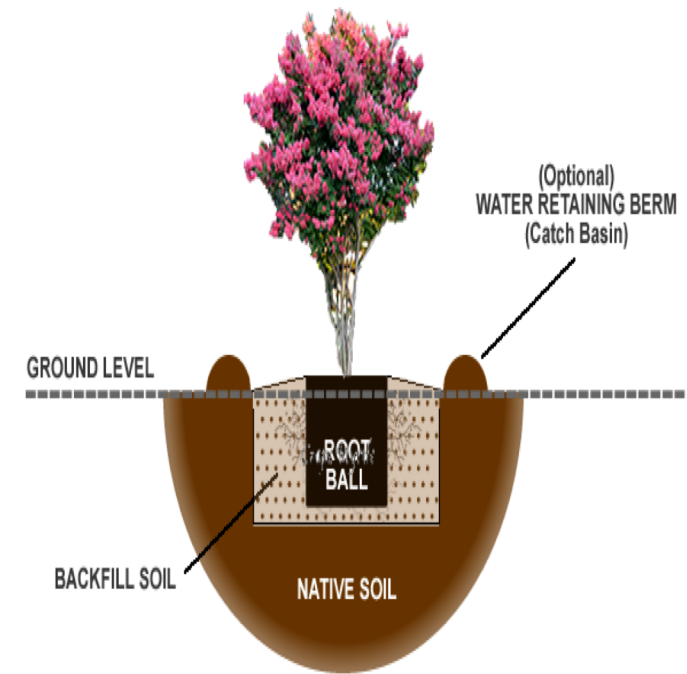


Some beautiful
Crape Myrtle
wood furniture



Growing Crape Myrtle

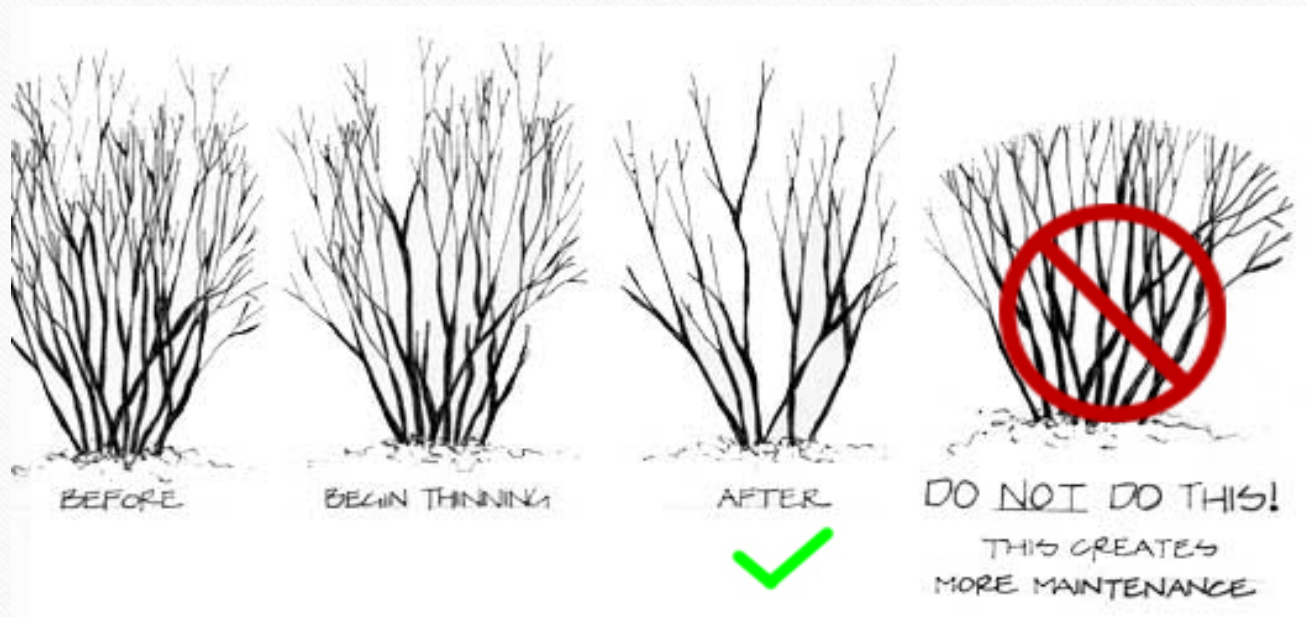
- **Climate:** Crape myrtles can be grown in hardiness zones 6-10, although in zone 6 they're likely to die back to the ground in winter.
- **Water:** Crape myrtles like humid climates. Once established, they can tolerate quite a bit of drought.
- **Light:** Crape myrtles flower best in full sun (at least six hours per day).
- **Soil:** Crape myrtles do well in most any kind of soil, as long as it's well-drained. The ideal soil pH is neutral to slightly acidic.
- **Fertilizer:** Crape myrtles benefit from annual feeding with a general-purpose or high-nitrogen fertilizer, in early spring as soon as you see leaves. If you want to fertilize twice, do the second application about two months later. Slow-release fertilizer can help prevent rapid sucker growth that is vulnerable to diseases and insects. Take advantage of the toughness of these plants – too much fertilization can actually result in excessive leaf growth and fewer blooms!



Crape Myrtle diseases and pests

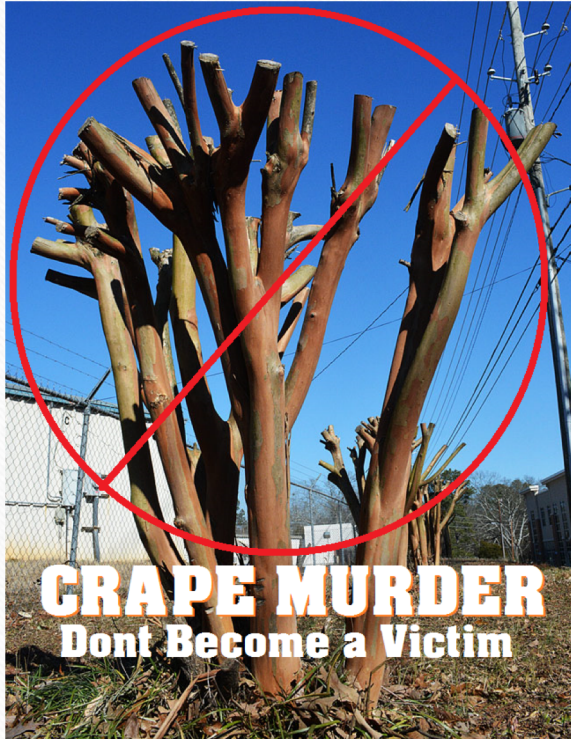
- **Powdery Mildew:** The most common scourge of crape myrtles is powdery mildew – particularly during hot, humid days followed by cool, dewy nights. Treat with a general fungicide.
- **Sooty Mold:** This is caused by the excretions of pests such as aphids. Treat with the appropriate insecticide.
- **Leaf Spot:** Another common problem is leaf spot (*Cercospora lythracearum*), which resembles dark brown spots on the leaves that then turn yellow and fall off. Treat with a general fungicide.
- **Root Rot:** Crape myrtles can also be affected by root rot, caused by poorly-draining soil.





Examples of proper pruning of Crape Myrtles





Proper pruning of Crape Myrtles
is a BIG Deal!!!



**Crape Myrtles
in bloom at
Balboa Park**