Early Bird™ Purple Crapemyrtle

Lagerstroemia 'JD827'



Early Bird Purple Crapemyrtle flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 10 feet

Spread: 8 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 6

Other Names: Crape Myrtle, Crepe Myrtle

Group/Class: Early Bird Series

Description:

This attractive, early blooming ornamental shrub or small tree, produces volumes of deep purple-pink frilly blooms in late spring, followed by vibrant red fall foliage; captivating focal point for the garden or border

Ornamental Features

Early Bird Purple Crapemyrtle is smothered in stunning panicles of purple frilly flowers with hot pink overtones at the ends of the branches from late spring to mid summer. It has green deciduous foliage. The glossy oval leaves turn red in fall.



Early Bird Purple Crapemyrtle in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Early Bird Purple Crapemyrtle is a dense multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Early Bird Purple Crapemyrtle is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Early Bird Purple Crapemyrtle will grow to be about 10 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 8 feet. It tends to be a little leggy, with a typical clearance of 2 feet from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 years.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is very fussy about its soil conditions and must have rich, acidic soils to ensure success, and is subject to chlorosis (yellowing) of the foliage in alkaline soils. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid.

Early Bird Purple Crapemyrtle makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. Its large size and upright habit of growth lend it for use as a solitary accent, or in a composition surrounded by smaller plants around the base and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.