Ebony Flame Crapemyrtle

Lagerstroemia 'Ebony Flame'

Height: 12 feet

Spread: 8 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 7

Other Names: Crape Myrtle, Crepe Myrtle

Description:

This elegant ornamental shrub is covered in vibrant, dark red blooms in summer, held over intense black foliage; a captivating focal point for the garden or border; also good for container planting



Ebony Flame Crapemyrtle flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Ebony Flame Crapemyrtle is covered in stunning panicles of dark red frilly flowers at the ends of the branches from early summer to mid fall. It has attractive black foliage with burgundy undersides which emerges coppery-bronze in spring. The recurved oval leaves are highly ornamental and turn orange in fall.



Ebony Flame Crapemyrtle foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Ebony Flame 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.

Ebony Flame Crapemyrtle is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Ebony Flame Crapemyrtle will grow to be about 12 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.

Ebony Flame 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.