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Lagerstroemia indica

[Synonyms : *Lagerstroemia chinensis*, *Lagerstroemia elegans*]

CRÉPE MYRTLE is a deciduous shrub or tree. Native to China, India, Korea, south-eastern Asia and northern Australia, it has small, white to lilac-pink flowers with yellow stamens, and leaves that turn red and yellow in Autumn.

It is also known as Bonnet flower, *Chinagoranta* (Telugu), China privet, Chinese crepe myrtle, Common crapemyrtle, Crape myrtle, Crépe flower, Indian lilac, *Indische Lagerstroemie* (German), June rose, *Krepmyrte* (Danish), *Krepp-Myrte* (German), *Lagerestrémia* (Portuguese), *Lagerstrémie* (French), *Lagerstrome de l'Inde* (French), *Lagerströmia* (Swedish), Lilac of the south, *Lilas des Indes* (French), *Phurush* (Bengali and Hindi), Pink crépe myrtle, Pride of India, *Sarusuberi* (Japanese), and *Tindiyam* (Tamil).

There are many cultivated varieties.

Warning – consumption of large quantities of bark, leaves, flowers and seeds can cause purging and increased urination.

Indica means ‘of or from India, or the East Indies or the Far East’.

The timber is sometimes used commercially.

In Japan charcoal made from crépe myrtle has been used to thicken lacquer.

Crépe myrtle is believed to have been introduced to Europe in the 1750s.

Medicinally, the bark has been used to treat fever.