



Emerald Goddess Gardens **emeraldgoddessgardens.com**

- Botanical Name: Lagerstroemia indica 'Cream Puff'
- Common Name: Cream Puff Crapemyrtle
- Plant Family: Lythraceae
- Mature Size: 8 to 10 ft.
- Growth Habit: Upright Tree
- Bloom Color: White
- Bloom Form: Panicle
- Bloom Time: Late Spring
- Water Needs: Moderate
- Light Needs: Full Sun
- Recommended Zones: 7, 8, 9, 10
- Key Features: Fragrant Bloom, Compact Foliage, Early Season Bloom
- Suggested Uses: Urban Tree, Median, Accent, Boundary
- Growers Notes : Crapemyrtle seeds can stain. Avoid placing where staining can be problematic.



Cream Puff Crapemyrtle is one of our attractive seedling selections. This cultivar is descended from a stunning pink in our Faerie collection. Cream Puff produces tight balls of pure white blooms that are fragrant even when few blooms are present. This variety blooms early in the season and can add elegance to the landscape when other Crapemyrtles are not yet blooming.

Crapemyrtles were introduced into landscape cultivation in the southern United States about 150 years ago. These colorful deciduous trees quickly became very popular additions to southern landscapes. Although some do grow as far north as Baltimore, Maryland, these are exceptions as the species overall is best suited for warmer climates.

Plant crapemyrtles in well drained soil in a sunny location. Feed regularly through the growing season with a high quality slow release fertilize (like our 19-6-12). Prune for shape after blooming in the fall and stop feeding as the leaves begin to change color and drop. In the colder areas of Zone 7 it is recommended to prune lightly for shape early in the fall and postpone heavier pruning until the plant is breaking from dormancy in the early spring...there are differing opinions about this.

This cultivar is resistant to downy mildew, which is a fungus that is problematic on many of the older cultivars.

Direct planting of 4 inch starters is not recommended. For success with your new Cream Puff Crapemyrtle follow these helpful tips:

- Plant in well draining soil.
- Locate in full sun.
- Provide supplemental irrigation until well established.
- Feed a good quality bloom boosting fertilize with the initial planting and yearly thereafter.
- Protect from frost and freeze until very well established.

For quick answers to your growing or planting questions, just email us at service@emeraldgoddessgardens.com

If you don't know your USDA Planting Zone, you can check the map on our website site at emeraldgoddessgardens.com

Care of Your New Tree

Here are a few basic guidelines for handling and caring for your tree:

Direct planting of 4 inch starter size plants or plugs directly into the landscape is not generally recommended, with a few exceptions. So, for the best results with your new plant we suggest that it be repotted into a larger pot and allowed to grow larger until the new pot is filled with roots before setting out.

Check the recommended USDA Zone Range for the plant. Many gardeners are able to successfully grow plants outside their recommended Zones, but this is dependent upon providing the type of environment and care the plant needs.

- Immediately repot the new plant into a 6 inch to 10 inch diameter pot. A 6 inch pot is recommended for starter plugs, and a 10 inch in recommended for 4 inch diameter starter pots.
- Use a good quality commercial bagged potting media.
- Apply a high quality, slow release plant food according to the label directions. Do not use hot, all chemical, quick release fertilizers like 6-6-6 or 10-10-10.
- Check the recommended location in the plant specifics and position accordingly. Note that plants that are suitable for growing in full sun should be acclimated, and young plants should be protected from direct, very hot sun while they are becoming established.
- Maintain consistent and uniform moisture in the soil. Take care not to over water. Some plants prefer to dry a bit between waterings, so check the plant specifics.
- Packing crystals may be re-used to conserve water, but do so with caution as they hold 6000 times their weight in water.
- If re-using crystals, mix and incorporate them thoroughly throughout the potting media.
- Be sure the pot can drain, and that the bottom of the pot does not sit submerged in water for more than a few hours.
- Monitor for signs of disease or insects and treat accordingly.
- Protect from frost and freeze, as even cold tolerant plants can be damaged by cold when young, or during cold conditions more severe or longer duration than the average for the Zone Range.
- Prune for shape as the central trunk grows taller by trimming away growth from the bottom 1/4 to 1/3 of the trunk and any shoots that sucker up from the root system. When the trunk reaches 4 to 6 feet, then begin to lightly trim the top 3/4 to 2/3 to encourage interior branching and fullness and to shape.
- Tying the central trunk to a sturdy stake is recommended until the root system develops well enough to hold the plant securely in an upright position. Take care to re-tie every few months to avoid girding or scaring of the trunk, although most shallow wounds to a young developing trunk will heal.
- Monitor for signs of disease or insects and treat accordingly

Many tropical and subtropical plants can be grown as potted plants indefinitely, and can be successfully wintered over indoors in colder climates, so long as they are moved indoors well ahead of temps into the 30°F's, are maintained in warm environment (minimum 40°F) with adequate, full spectrum light, consistent soil moisture is maintained, and any pest or disease issue are promptly and properly addressed.

For quick answers to any growing or planting questions, just email us at service@emeraldgoddessgardens.com.

You can check you USDA Zone by visiting our website at emeraldgoddessgardens.com