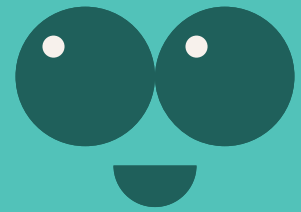


Queen Crape Myrtle

Scientific name : *Lagerstroemia speciosa* (L.) Pers



English name : Queen Crape Myrtle / Queen Lagerstroemia / Queen Crape-myrtle

Family : Lythraceae

Native Distribution : Invasive species

Origin : Southeast Asia, including Sri Lanka, India, Malaysia, Vietnam, and the Philippines.

Growth habits : Deciduous trees

Leaf : Large, oblong-elliptic to ovate-elliptic, leathery, with 9-17 pairs of lateral veins. Turns orange-red to deep red before falling off in winter.

Flower : Purple-red, 6 petals, round with a crinkled edge. Numerous (100-200) yellow stamens. Radially symmetrical, resembling a badge.

Fruit : Gray-brown capsule, globular, splitting into 6 valves when mature.

Tree characteristics : Can reach 20m. Bark on the main trunk is gray, and the branchlets are cylindrical.

Flowering period : May to July

Fruit period : October to November

Ecology : The deep red leaf color in winter provides an alternative "autumn foliage" display. It is usually planted as a street tree or landscaping plant due to its straight trunk and compact size. The wood is also a valuable timber source, comparable to teak in hardness, reddish color, and luster. Additionally, the roots and leaves are used in Chinese medicine for their astringent and detoxifying properties.