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## **Crapemyrtle 'Tonto'**

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### **Leaf Identification**

**Type:** Simple  
**Arrangement:** Alternate and opposite  
**Venations:** Pinnate  
**Margins:** Entire  
**Shapes:** Elliptic, oblong and obovate  
**Length:** Less than 2in./5cm to 4in./10cm

**Fruit Color** Brown

### **Environment**

This plant tolerates some drought and a little salt. This plant will grow in dry soil. Suitable soil is well-drained/loamy, sandy or clay. The pH preference is an acidic to slightly alkaline (less than 6.8 to 7.7) soil.

***Lagerstroemia x 'Tonto'***  
Crapemyrtle  
**Lythraceae (Loosestrife)**

Nomenclature:

**Type** Tree, shrub, woody plant

**Hardy range** 7A to 9A

**Height** 5' to 10' / 1.60m to 3.00m

**Spread** 8' to 12' / 2.40m to 3.60m

**Growth rate** Average

**Form** Rounded and vase shaped

**Exposure** Full sun

**Persistence** Deciduous

**Bloom Color** Red

**Bloom Time** Spring and Summer

The flowers are very showy.

**Leaf Color** Green

**Fall Color** Orange, red and yellow

### **Native Habitat**

Hybrid origin

### **Crown, Branch and Twig**

This plant is symmetrical with a medium texture and has a moderately dense crown.

This plant's bark is showy.

Branches or twigs are thin.

This plant is often grown with multiple trunks.

This plant can be trained to a single trunk.

### **Pests, Diseases and Damaging Agents**

Pests: Aphids often infest the new growth causing an unsightly sooty mold to grow on the foliage. Heavy infestations can be serious. There are new cultivars (many developed by the USDA) available which are resistant to powdery mildew and aphids. Japanese beetles relish the foliage of crapemyrtle.

### **Landscape Uses**

- Container plantings
- Border
- Street tree
- Pollarding
- Standard
- Massing
- Specimen

### **Attributes and Features**

- Pest tolerant
- Persistent fruit



Diseases: Powdery mildew can severely affect Crapemyrtle although at least one test reports excellent resistance in this cultivar. Select resistant cultivars and hybrids to avoid this disease. Leaf spots are only a minor concern and do not require treatment on this cultivar. Crapemyrtle is susceptible to *Armillaria mellea* root rot, a root fungus disease that girdles the trunk at the base of the plant. Plants in soils previously supporting oaks are most often infected.

