**Gainesville, Florida established 1977**

Phone **352-486-6922** **8am-4pm, M-F**

**Best way to contact us is by email at** **customerservice@crapemyrtle.com****.** We are usually out inthe field during the day.

Sorry no visitors- we don’t have sidewalks

**David Chopin, BS,MS,JD, President**

Attorney at Law

**Florida’s 1st Horticulturist- Attorney**

A Proud Graduate of the University of Florida Levin College of Law and LSU Horticulture.

**California, Florida and USDA Certification Number #0255. Only Crape Myrtle Nursery Certified for all 50 states.**

**The Crape Myrtle Co.**

Oldest Crape Myrtle Co. in USA

[www.crapemyrtle.com](http://www.crapemyrtle.com)

We are the original Inventors of the U.S. Patented Miniature Crape Myrtles and the # 1 Crape Myrtle grower in the USA. In business 46 years growing All Sizes and Types of Crapes.

How to Grow the Best Crape Myrtles Anywhere--- Step by Step Instructions

Fall-Winter Planting Time is here. Plants may have no leaves when shipped or they fall off in shipping. Plant Crapes Now.

Crape Myrtles are now being grown in ALL US GROWING ZONES. This is the Best Crape Myrtle Instruction-Growing sheet in the US. Everybody on the Internet copies this instruction sheet. Use best judgement for Your Individual Zone. Plant Crapes anytime-even in the Hottest Weather.

**SPACING: Miniatures 14” to 18”, Dwarfs 4-6 feet apart, Medium and Tall Trees 8 to 12 feet apart. Plant closer if you want to block a neighbor which is the most common reason for close spacing.**

By the way, we put an extra plant in 15% of our orders so if you received an extra plant-its your lucky day!

Select the area to be planted. Crapes are now grown all over the USA but the site should either have bright light, full sun, or partial sun. No heavy shade for Crape Myrtles. If the site gets the sun for part of the day then it’s OK, but they do love Full, Hot Sun too. **In Spring, YOU MUST PROTECT PLANTS from UNEXPECTED FREEZES.**

**1st-** Go to you local Garden Center a buy a 3 cubic foot bag of Potting Soil(about 1 bag for every 4 plants), the type that is made of Peat Moss and finely ground Pine Bark(Like Miracle Gro Potting Soil). Do not use heavy sand based mixes like Black Cow Brand. You want it to be light and “airy” with a lot of peat moss and shredded pine bark.

**2nd** For each Miniature Crape that you’re planting dig a hole about the size of a 1 gallon plastic milk jug(1 foot wide by 8 inches deep). For each Tree or Dwarf Crape Myrtle that you plant dig a hole about the size of 2 plastic milk jugs(1 foot wide by 12 inches deep).

**3rd** Discard your dirt that was in the hole and pour the Peat Moss-Bark Potting Soil you just bought into the hole filling it up to the top. This is your secret to growing beautiful Crapes.

**4th** Make a hole in the potting soil mix with your fist pushing down into the soil. It’s OK if you plant the plant you received from us “deep”. Sometimes, especially with the Tree Crapes, you have to plant them deep so they will stand up straight. Water the plant in. After watering you may have to add a little more potting soil around the plant and tap soil down with your foot. It’s OK to stake the trees with a tomato stick so they will stand straight up. Leave the stake attached for 6 months.

**5th** Now put a good bit of mulch around the plant and it’s OK if it touches the stem of the plant. Pine Bark or Cypress mulch is excellent. This is especially recommended for Customers in zone 4 and 5. Put mulch on 2” or even 3” inches thick.

**6th** If you plant the Crapes in Fall or Winter only water 2 or 3 times. Don’t overwater! Using Miracle Grow or peat moss based soils helps prevent overwatering.

**7th 2nd Season** begin fertilizing with ANY fertilizer, liquid, slow release, granules weekly. Especially after plants are established they are heavy feeders and if you want blooms for 5 months you have to fertilize every 2 weeks throughout the growing season.

**8th** Cut off the old flowers, flower clusters, and round seed pods in July, August and September and if you keep fertilizing the plants they will keep blooming.

Remember Crape Myrtles are different from any other trees in that they bloom on NEW GROWTH MADE IN SPRING AND SUMMER. The more new growth made by trimming branches, the more flowers you will have to enjoy.

Here's an interesting statistic: We’ve found over the years that about 90% of the customers expect a Miniature that gets 2’ tall at maturity to be 4’ tall when it arrives in the box. We’ve also found that they never bother to read the instructions.

A Note about the COLOR OF THE FLOWERS WHEN THEY BLOOM:

Here is a brief list(I could write a book on all the factors that can influence flower color): Heat of shipping in the box, PH, Amount of Water, Amount of Fertilizer, everybody sees color differently, web page flower colors which are made on a computer vs. live plants which are made by God, Spring flowers vs. Summer flowers etc. In general, with Crape Myrtles: Higher Temps mean lighter colors, Spring flowers are often darker and more intense, buying from Home Depot where people switch the tags to a different plant, listening to Uncle Bruce who knows more than us, and opening a box that travelled in 90F and seeing a lighter flower color upon opening(ps: the Travelling Heat never hurts Crape Myrtles only lightens flowers), buying from a flea market then calling us when there are problems. Signed, David

**Its NEVER too hot to plant Crapes!** It may be too hot for people but even 110F is not too hot to plant Crapes

**Want to make a Bush Crape into a Tree Crape?** Just prune off the lower 2-3 sets of leaves and it will grow into a tree.