

Lavender Star™ PPAF

Crapemyrtle, *Lagerstroemia indica*



Features

- Flowers are lavender/purple and hold color well. As flowers age, most drop cleanly, with only a few turning black or grey briefly. After only a brief period new flowers are forming again.
- Flowers are sterile; therefore, no seeds are produced, leaving a stronger, healthier plant. However, the absence of seeds comes at a modest price --- because the developing seed is what stimulates the plant to go dormant. Without the dormancy trigger some seasons the plant will still be in active growth when the first freeze arrives. The lost late growth is quickly replaced in spring.
- Flowers are arranged in racemes, only taller and more slender than typical of crapemyrtle. Because the flowers are sterile, they hold up well in flower arrangements.
- Leaves are dull green, thick, and leathery and about one half the size of a typical crapemyrtle and dull grey green on the back. Exceptional drought tolerance is likely the result of the small leathery leaves and absence of seeds.

Carl Whitcomb, Lacebark Research, Stillwater, OK

