

# Trees of West Torrens

## Crepe myrtle

**Botanical name** Lagerstroemia indica  
x fauriei 'Tuscarora'

**Family** Lythraceae

**Mature size** Up to 6m high  
4m - 5m spread

**Trunk girth** 210mm - 230mm

**Flowers** ✓

**Fruit/Seeds** ✓

### Description

In Adelaide the crepe myrtle reaches an approximate height up to 6m and a spread of 4m to 5m after 20 years.

The crepe myrtle is a relatively slow to moderate growing broad tree with stiff upright branching and a spreading habit. Its leaves are dark green with an orange-red tinge through autumn and a dark coral-pink flowers which display through summer to early autumn. Its fruit are insignificant.

It is an adaptable tree that tolerates a wide range of soils and climatic conditions, for example drought, clay soil and air pollution, making it ideal as a street trees. The foliage may yellow (chlorosis) in alkaline soils and it does have some resistance to powdery mildew. It has rough bark that reveals a smooth under-bark as the tree matures.

Crepe myrtles grow best in full sun with rich, moist soil but will tolerate less hospitable positions just as well once established. Its roots are generally shallow, are usually not a problem and it grows well in limited soil spaces in urban areas such as along boulevards, in parking lots, and in small pavement cut outs.



Examples of the crepe myrtle as a street tree in West Torrens can be found on Kimber Terrace, Kurralta Park - planted in 2001.



### Tree facts

A mature, healthy crepe myrtle tree at **6 metres** tall:



**77** of these trees provide enough oxygen for one person for a year.



Provides **13m<sup>2</sup>** of canopy shade, equal to the shade of **4** beach umbrellas.



Removes **37 grams** of harmful air pollution every year.

Disclaimer: This information is specific to the climate and soil types of Adelaide. Tree facts from iTree.

