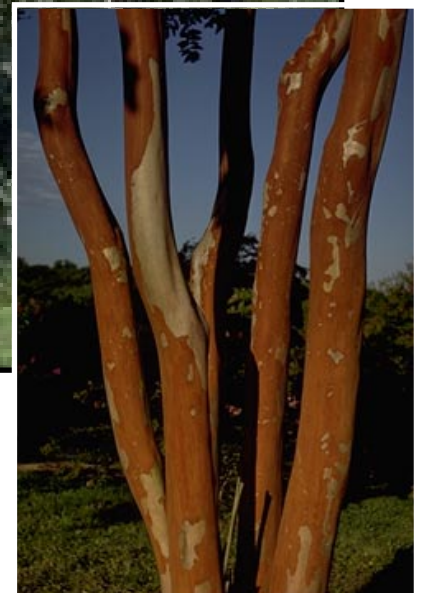

Lagerstroemia 'Natchez'



The U.S. National Arboretum presents *Lagerstroemia* 'Natchez', the undisputed queen of crapemyrtles. With its warm, cinnamon brown bark, lovely white flowers throughout the summer, field tolerance to powdery mildew, and stately, tree-type stature, 'Natchez' epitomizes elegance in the plant world.

Recognition: Mississippi Medallion Award, 1998.



U.S. National Arboretum Plant Introduction
Floral and Nursery Plants Research Unit

U.S. National Arboretum, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, 3501 New York Ave., N.E., Washington, DC 20002





'Natchez' Hybrid Crapemyrtle

Botanical Name:	<i>Lagerstroemia (indica x fauriei)</i> 'Natchez' (NA 38449; PI 427115)
Family:	Lythraceae
Hardiness:	U.S.D.A. Zones 7–9
Development:	In 1956, seed of <i>L. fauriei</i> collected in a mountain forest above Kurio, Yakushima, Japan, was introduced to the U.S. by the New Crops Research Branch, Agricultural Research Service, USDA. Plants raised from the Japanese seed and grown at the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, DC, remained free of powdery mildew infestation. <i>L. fauriei</i> was hybridized with <i>L. indica</i> 'Pink Lace' in 1964. Fifty per cent of the hybrid seedlings showed no susceptibility to powdery mildew. However, the landscape merit of the seedling populations did not become evident until five years later when their bark began to exfoliate to reveal a range of cinnamon brown to pale cream mottled trunks. 'Natchez' was selected from this group of seedlings in 1969 for propagation and future evaluation; it was officially named and released in July, 1978. The name 'Natchez' was registered with the International Registration Authority for Cultivated <i>Lagerstroemia</i> and approved May 15, 1978.
Significance:	'Natchez' is one of the first hybrid crapemyrtles derived from controlled hybridization of <i>L. fauriei</i> and a cultivar of <i>L. indica</i> . It represents a major breakthrough in the battle to introduce powdery mildew resistance into one of the South's most commonly planted summer-flowering shrubs. The bark exfoliates to reveal a dark cinnamon brown trunk coloration, an inherited trait from the <i>L. fauriei</i> parent.
Description:	Height and Width: 30 feet tall with a crown spread of 35 feet at 34 years of age. Habit: Deciduous, multiple or single stemmed large shrub to medium-sized tree with sinuous, exfoliating, mottled, dark cinnamon brown trunk. Foliage: Glossy, dark green leaves are 1 1/2 to 3 inches long and 3/4 to 1 1/2 inches wide. Fall color is typically yellow but may exhibit dark red coloration. Highly mildew tolerant under field conditions. Flowers: Pure white flowers produced from late June to September; prolific recurrent bloom; long-tapered panicles with 100–800 flowers per inflorescence. Fruit: Dark brown, woody capsule persists on the panicle until late winter.
Culture:	'Natchez' grows and flowers best in a heavy loam to clay soil with a pH of 5.0–6.5 in full sun. Will grow in partial shade though flowering may be reduced.
Propagation:	Readily propagated by softwood, semi-hardwood, hardwood, or root cuttings. Softwood and semi-hardwood cuttings under mist, 1000-3000 ppm IBA. Hardwood cuttings can be rooted in cold frames in late fall and early winter.
Landscape Use:	Specimen, avenue or mass planting in public parks, good potential as flowering street tree or along highways.
Availability:	Readily available from wholesale and retail nurseries and mail-order firms.

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