



Lagerstroemia 'Arapaho'

The U.S. National Arboretum presents *Lagerstroemia* 'Arapaho', a vigorous, upright summer warrior with strong red flowers and glossy dark green leaves tinged with maroon. The narrow crown and outstanding powdery mildew resistance of 'Arapaho' further bolster its adaptability in the landscape. Make a bold statement with this unique new crapemyrtle!





'Arapaho' Hybrid Crapemyrtle

Botanical Name:	<i>Lagerstroemia</i> 'Arapaho' (NA 68972; PI 633034)
Family:	Lythraceae
Hardiness:	Reliably top hardy in U.S.D.A. Zones 7b-9; root hardy to Zone 6
Development:	In 1981, open-pollinated seed of <i>Lagerstroemia limii</i> was received from the Shanghai Botanic Garden, Peoples Republic of China. <i>L. limii</i> seedlings grown at the National Arboretum proved to be resistant to powdery mildew but exhibited none of the valued flower and bark characteristics of <i>L. indica</i> or <i>L. fauriei</i> . Hybridization of <i>L. limii</i> with <i>L. fauriei</i> , <i>L. indica</i> , and <i>L. (indica x fauriei)</i> hybrids began in 1986 under the direction of Dr. Donald Egolf and continues to the present time. A seedling from the 1989 hybridization was selected for evaluation in 1996, officially named 'Arapaho', and released July 18, 2003. The cultivar name 'Arapaho' was registered with the International Registration Authority for Cultivated Lagerstroemia and approved, August 23, 2003.
Significance:	'Arapaho' is the first hybrid crapemyrtle cultivar derived from controlled hybridization of three species of <i>Lagerstroemia</i> : <i>L. indica</i> , <i>L. fauriei</i> , and <i>L. limii</i> . It represents another major breakthrough in crapemyrtle breeding from the U.S. National Arboretum.
Description:	Height and Width: 19.5 feet tall with a crown width of 9.75 feet at 13 years. Habit: Deciduous, multiple- or single-stemmed, medium-sized, upright tree with exfoliating bark to reveal light tan trunk. Foliage: Glossy, heavy-textured, dark green leaves tinged with maroon. Highly mildew tolerant. Red-purple to maroon fall color. Flowers: Panicles of near true red flowers produced from July to September in the Washington, DC, area. Fruit: Persistent, dark brown, woody capsule.
Culture:	'Arapaho' grows and flowers best in full sun in a heavy loam to clay soil with a pH of 5.0-6.5. Will grow in partial shade though flowering will be reduced. Grows well in hot, difficult sites.
Propagation:	Readily propagated by softwood, semi-hardwood, hardwood, or root cuttings. Softwood and semi-hardwood cuttings under mist, 1000-3000 ppm IBA, are the preferred methods. Hardwood cuttings can be rooted in cold frames in late fall and early winter.
Landscape Use:	Specimen, avenue or mass planting in public parks or gardens, good potential as flowering street tree or in highway beautification plantings.
Availability:	Available at the wholesale level in 2003. Projected retail availability 2006. For source list of cooperating wholesale nurseries, contact Dr. Margaret Pooler, U.S. National Arboretum, 3501 New York Ave., NE, Washington, DC, 20002.

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

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