

Lagerstroemia indica (Linn.) Pers.

Systematic Position

Kingdom: Plantae

Phylum: Tracheophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Myrtales

Family: Lythraceae

Genus: *Lagerstroemia*

Species: *Lagerstroemia indica*



Popular names: Common Crape Myrtle, Pharash, Saoni, Dhaura, Pavalak-kurinji, Pride of India, Savani, Cheeni mehndi, Phurush.

Nature: Shrub

Flowering time: June to September

Fruiting time: July to October

Plant distribution: It is native of China. It is commonly found growing in China, Korea, Japan, Indian subcontinent etc. for its beautiful flowers. It has become immensely popular worldwide and has spawned a long line of cultivated hybrids.

Gardening notes:

1. **Light:** It requires full sunlight.
2. **Water:** It has average water needs and is frost tolerant.
3. **Propagation:** By softwood stem cuttings or seeds.

Economic importance:

1. Bark is stimulant and febrifuge.

2. Leaves and flowers are purgative and hydrogogue.
3. Roots are astringent and seeds narcotic.
4. Fruits are used as a application for aphthae of mouth.
5. Silkworm moth feeds on the plant.

Plant description: It is a small deciduous shrub growing to 5 feet tall.

Root- Tap root, branched; **Stem-** Aerial, erect, branched, solid, cylindrical, brown, bark- smooth, light brown, flaking off to expose grey under bark.

Leaf- Simple, green, deciduous, oval-elliptic, alternate or sub-opposite, blade 9-10 cm long, 5-6 cm wide, acute apex, entire margins, adaxial surface dark green, abaxial surface light green and slightly paler underneath, prominent midrib and veins, unicostate reticulate venation, sessile, stipulate, stipules- minute.

Inflorescence- Erect Panicle.

Flower- Large, attractive, pinkish, , bracteate, bracts two, small, leafy, green, bisexual, complete, hermaphrodite, hypogynous, actinomorphic, pedicellate, pedicel 2 cm long, green; Sepals - 6, gamosepalous, green, inferior, cup shaped, valvate aestivation; Petals – 6, polypetalous, pinkish, thin, wavy margins, often frilly, attached between sepal lobes by short thin tubular base; Stamens- many, in two whorls, in outer whorl stamens six, filaments- longer and curved, reddish green, in inner whorl stamens many, filaments- shorter, creamish, anthers- small, yellow, dorsifixed; Carpels – five, ovary superior, many ovules in each cell, axile placentation, style single, reddish with green top, stigma simple.

Fruit- Rounded, small, a woody capsule, 10-15 mm long, short-pointed on top, brown, longitudinal dehiscence, many seeds, and persistent calyx.

Seed- Small, thin, brown, winged.

Some close up pictures of plant parts



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