RUFFLED RED MAGIC™ CRAPEMYRTLE

LAGERSTROEMIA 'PIILAG-VII' PP27,303

Talk about red AND ruffled! This new crape myrtle has distinctly different, carnation-like, glowing red flowers that show beautifully against the lustrous dark green foliage. Foliage turns orange-red in fall. The habit is upright, but compact, with dense branching. Like the others in the Magic series, Ruffled Red™ re blooms in late summer if the first flush of flowers is deadheaded. It is also resistant to Cercospora leaf spot and powdery mildew, which is quite a breeding accomplishment in red crapes.

- HEIGHT 9-12'
- WIDTH 7-9'
- EXPOSURE Full Sun
- HARDINESS ZONE 7-9
- HEAT ZONE 9
- SHAPE Upright
- FLOWER COLOR Red
- FOLIAGE Dark Green
- FALL FOLIAGE Orange

SOIL PREPARATION

OTHER THAN CLIMATE, SOIL IS THE MOST IMPORTANT NATURALLY OCCURRING ASPECT OF PLANT GROWTH. MAKING SURE THAT YOUR SOIL IS PROPERLY PREPARED WILL AFFECT THE OVERALL HEALTH OF YOUR PLANTS AND THEIR LONG-TERM GROWTH. MOST PLANTS PREFER A RICH LOAM SOIL WITH AT LEAST 5 PERCENT ORGANIC MATTER, COMPOST MATERIAL ALSO KNOWN AS HUMUS. THIS SHOULD BE SPREAD 2 – 6 INCHES DEEP ACROSS THE ENTIRE BED AND WORK IT INTO THE SOIL WITH A SHOVEL OR TILLER.

IF YOU HAVE A HEAVY CLAY SOIL, ADD GYPSUM TO THE SOIL TO BREAK UP THE CLAY AND ALLOW FOR DRAINAGE. A GOOD RULE OF THUMB IS TO APPLY 5 – 15 POUNDS OF GYPSUM PER 100 SQUARE FEET. ALSO, ORGANIC MATTER CREATES AIR POCKETS THAT GREATLY HELP WITH WATER DRAINAGE.

IN SANDY SOIL, PEAT MOSS CAN HELP RETAIN MOISTURE.

PLANTING

ONCE YOU HAVE PREPARED YOUR SOIL, LAY OUT THE PLANTS IN YOUR INTENDED DESIGN. BE SURE TO KEEP IN MIND MATURE SIZE OF THE PLANTS, ENSURING THAT THEY WILL BARELY TOUCH AT FULL SIZE. THIS WILL MAKE YOUR GARDEN LOOK FULL AND ALLOW FOR AIR TO CIRCULATE BETWEEN THE PLANTS. DIG YOUR PLANTING HOLE SLIGHTLY LARGER THAN THE POT SIZE, AND PLACE ANY FERTILIZER (SEE BELOW), ORGANIC MATERIAL OR NUTRIENTS NEEDED TO IMPROVE YOUR SOIL MIX IN THE HOLE BEFORE PUTTING YOUR PLANTS IN PLACE. IF THE ROOTS ARE TIGHTLY PACKED, LOOSEN THEM GENTLY WITH YOUR FINGERS BEFORE PLANTING TO ENCOURAGE ROOT GROWTH AND SPREAD ONCE IN THE GROUND.

FOR SHRUBS, MAKE SURE THAT THE CROWN OF THE PLANT – WHERE THE BASE OF THE STEMS MEETS THE SOIL – IS EVEN WITH THE GROUND LEVEL. IF THE PLANT IS PLACED TOO HIGH, IT CAN EASILY DRY OUT. IF THE CROWN IS PLACED TOO LOW WHEN PLANTING, IT CAN CAUSE THE PLANT NOT TO BLOOM AND POTENTIALLY ROT. FOR TREES, MAKE SURE THAT THE ROOT FLARE – WHERE THE TRUNK FLARES OUT TO THE ROOT SYSTEM – IS EVEN WITH THE SOIL LEVEL. REFILL THE HOLE WITH SOIL AND PACK IT FIRMLY AROUND THE CROWN OR ROOT FLARE TO CREATE A WATER DAM AROUND THE NEWLY PLANTED SHRUBS OR TREES. FILL THE DAM WITH WATER, LET IT DRAIN AND THEN REFILL IT.

FERTILIZING

LANDSCAPE PLANTINGS WILL DO BEST WITH A SPRING APPLICATION OF A SIMPLE, WELL BALANCED, SLOW-RELEASE FERTILIZER. WE RECOMMEND A GRANULAR OR SPIKE-FORM FERTILIZER RATHER THAN WATER-SOLUBLE TYPES, WHICH ARE BEST USED IN SMALL DOSES AND MAINLY FOR CONTAINER GARDENS. WHEN APPLYING FERTILIZER, FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS ON THE LABEL, AS OVER-FERTILIZING CAN DAMAGE THE PLANTS' ROOT SYSTEMS. ONE EXCEPTION IS ROSES, WHICH DO WELL WITH MONTHLY APPLICATIONS THROUGH MID-SUMMER. AS A RULE OF THUMB, IT IS BEST TO STOP FERTILIZING TREES AND SHRUBS IN LATE SUMMER. IF YOU ARE NOT SURE WHAT FERTILIZER TO USE AS A PROFESSIONAL AT YOUR LOCAL GARDEN CENTER. BE PREPARED TO TELL THEM WHAT TYPES OF PLANTS YOU WANT TO FERTILIZE, AND THEY WILL BE ABLE TO HELP SELECT THE PROPER PRODUCT!