SHADOW MAGIC™ CRAPEMYRTLE

LAGERSTROEMIA 'BAILLLAGTWO' PPAF

The combination of prolific dark rosy blooms and dark purple leaves make Shadow Magic Crape Myrtle a standout in any warm-climate landscape. While many dark leaf Crape Myrtle's are riddled with foliar issues, Shadow Magic is incredibly disease resistant, especially to powdery mildew, so the glossy dark leaves remain brilliant spring through fall. More compact than Twilight Magic, this variety matures to 7-9′ tall and 5-7′ wide, creating a beautiful upright shrub or small tree. Perfect for containers, hedges, landscapes, and as accents!

- **HEIGHT-** 7-9 feet
- **WIDTH-** 5-7 feet
- **EXPOSURE-** Full Sun
- **HARDINESS ZONE-** 7-9
- **HEAT ZONE-** 7
- **SHAPE-** Upright, oval
- **FOLIAGE-** Dark purple

Planting Instructions

SITE SELECTION

Start by making a garden plan. Do you want more curb appeal, need a splash of color in a certain location, or do you want to replace tired old plants in your landscape? Determine the space you have available, how many plants you need and how much sun each location receives and draw up a garden plan. Knowing the conditions, you are working with will help determine how much time and money you will be investing, and what varieties will work best in the space you have available.

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

Steps for planting in the garden

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!

WATERING

Watering is important for long-term growth and health and is especially important with newly planted shrubs and trees. Young root systems can easily dry out while they are getting established, so paying close attention is important. To determine if a plant needs watering, stick your finger in the soil to see how dry it is. Just because a plant is wilting does not mean that it needs water – it can sometimes be a sign of overly wet soil as well! When you water plants, it is best to give them a deep, thorough watering less often rather than watering lightly every day. A soaker hose is a great way to achieve this.

As plants grow and mature, you will not need to water as often. As a guide, if your garden does not get 1" of natural rainfall per week, you should check the soil and consider supplemental water with a deep soaking. A natural way to keep soil cool and prevent evaporation is to use a wood chip, bark or cocoa bean mulch.