

BEFORE YOU PRUNE YOUR CRAPE MYRTLES!

THINK BEFORE YOU TRIM!

Most crape myrtle pruning is done incorrectly.

- Never “top” a crape myrtle. There is no quicker way to ruin a lovely specimen.
- Never use pruning as a means of height control. Transplant tall varieties to more spacious surroundings. Replace with a variety whose mature height fits your available space.
- Remove nothing from the top of any large crape myrtle. In fact, don't even worry about seed heads. New growth in the spring will quickly overtake them.
- Remove unwanted branches from the bottoms of your crape myrtles to train them to grow tree-form.
- Remove damaged or rubbing branches from the interior of your plant.

(If your plant has been “crape murdered” by topping, or if it has been weakened by cold or drought, your quickest way to restore it is to cut it completely to the ground in late winter. Retrain the vigorous growth that comes back from the root system.)



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