Common Crepe Myrtle

Lagerstroemia indica

Code: TREE-D46CA123FC9A2F8 **Location:** XIM University Campus **Local / Vernacular name:** ଦଚନା ଫୁଲ

Botanical Details

Leaf habit: Deciduous Flowers / Fruits: The crape myrtle, Lagerstroemia indica, produces large, showy flowers arranged in terminal panicles. The flowers have distinctive crinkled, crepe-like petals and occur in a wide range of colors, including pink, purple, red, white, and lavender. Flowering usually extends from summer to early autumn and is one of the tree's most valued ornamental features. Native range: Lagerstroemia indica is native to East and Southeast Asia, particularly China, Korea, Japan, and parts of the Himalayan foothills. From its native range, it has been widely introduced to tropical and subtropical regions worldwide as a popular ornamental and avenue tree.

Uses & Importance

Ecological: Lagerstroemia indica contributes positively to both naturalized and urban ecosystems. Its long flowering season provides a sustained source of nectar and pollen for pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and other insects, supporting pollination networks. As a deciduous ornamental tree, it offers seasonal shade, helps moderate local microclimates, and contributes to carbon sequestration and air-quality improvement in urban environments. The tree is commonly used in avenue planting and parks, where it enhances urban biodiversity and ecological aesthetics with relatively low water and maintenance requirements.

Medicinal: Medicinal use of Lagerstroemia indica is limited but documented in traditional and folk medicine systems. The leaves and bark have been used for their astringent, antimicrobial, and antiinflammatory properties, particularly in the treatment of diarrhea, dysentery, minor wounds, and skin infections. Decoctions of bark or leaves were occasionally used to manage fever and digestive disorders. Compared to Lagerstroemia speciosa, however, L. indica holds secondary medicinal importance.

Cultural: Culturally, Lagerstroemia indica is valued primarily for its ornamental beauty rather than direct ritual use. It is widely planted in gardens, temple complexes, schools, and public spaces as a symbol of beauty, resilience, renewal, and longevity. Its smooth, exfoliating bark and vibrant flowers make it a representation of grace and endurance in landscape traditions. While it is not a sacred tree in formal religious rituals, its presence around temples and civic spaces reflects respect for nature and aesthetic harmony, reinforcing cultural values linked to environmental stewardship and seasonal celebration.

Location

GPS: 20.15860192, 85.76535449

Directions: https://www.google.com/maps/dir/?api=1&travelmode=walking&destination=20.15860192%2C85.76535449
