

Lagerstroemia 'Cheyenne'

The U.S. National Arboretum presents *Lagerstroemia* 'Cheyenne', a dazzling crapemyrtle cultivar destined to set your summer garden afire! 'Cheyenne' strikes a pleasing balance between the restraint of its rounded form and the audacious impact of its neon red flowers. Highlight your garden design with this exceptional hybrid!





'Cheyenne' Hybrid Crapemyrtle

Botanical Name: Lagerstroemia 'Cheyenne'

(NA 68973; PI 633035)

Family: Lythraceae

Hardiness: Reliably top hardy in U.S.D.A. Zones 7b-9; root hardy to Zone 6

Development: In 1981, open-pollinated seed of *Lagerstroemia limii* was received from the

Shanghai Botanic Garden, Peoples Republic of China. *L. limii* seedlings grown at the arboretum proved to be resistant to powdery mildew but exhibited none of the valued flower and bark characteristics of *L. indica* or *L. fauriei*. Hybridization of *L. limii* with *L. fauriei*, *L. indica*, and *L. (indica* x *fauriei*) hybrids began in 1986 under the direction of Dr. Donald Egolf and continues to the present time. A seedling from the 1990 hybridization was selected for evaluation in 1996, officially named 'Cheyenne', and released July 18, 2003. The cultivar name 'Cheyenne' was registered with the International Registration Authority for Cultivated *Lagerstroemia* and approved,

August 23, 2003.

Significance: 'Cheyenne' is the second hybrid crapemyrtle cultivar to be derived from controlled

hybridization of three species of *Lagerstroemia*: *L. indica*, *L. fauriei*, and *L. limii*. It represents another major breakthrough in crapemyrtle breeding efforts at the U.S. National Arboretum. The near true red flower color, rounded form and powdery mildew tolerance of 'Cheyenne' adds yet another dimension to the list of superior

cultivars developed at the U.S. National Arboretum.

Description: **Height and Width:** 8 feet tall and 8 feet wide at 12 years.

Habit: Deciduous, dense, rounded, multi-stemmed shrub; bark exfoliates to reveal

light reddish tan trunks.

Foliage: Glossy, dark green leaves tinged with maroon are mildew tolerant under

field conditions; fall color dark red to maroon.

Flowers: Panicles of vivid bright red flowers are produced from July to September

in the Washington, DC, area.

Fruit: Dark brown, woody capsule.

Culture: 'Cheyenne' grows and flowers best in full sun in a heavy loam to clay soil with a pH

of 5.0-6.5. Will grow in partial shade though flowering will be reduced. Grows well in

hot, difficult sites.

Propagation: Readily propagated by softwood, semi-hardwood, hardwood, or root cuttings.

Softwood and semi-hardwood cuttings under mist, 1000-3000 ppm IBA, are the preferred methods. Hardwood cuttings can be rooted in cold frames in late fall and early

winter.

Landscape Use: Specimen, avenue or mass planting in public parks or gardens, shrub border or infor-

mal hedge, or in highway beautification plantings.

Availability: Available at the wholesale level in 2003. Projected retail availability 2006. For

source list of cooperating wholesale nurseries, contact Dr. Margaret Pooler, U.S.

National Arboretum, 3501 New York Ave., NE, Washington, DC, 20002.

U.S. National Arboretum Plant Introduction Floral and Nursery Plants Research Unit

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