



Whit Series
Crapemyrtle
from Greenleaf
Nurseries

Summer Show-Offs

by Steve Coppedge



Among his many other research projects, Dr. Carl Whitcomb set off in 1985 on a journey to develop crapemyrtle cultivars with exceptional characteristics. Some of the qualities

he sought were powdery mildew resistance, vivid flower color, wine-colored foliage, flower fragrance and drought and landscape establishment toughness.

Numerous generations and thousands of seedlings later, the successful introduction of eight varieties of popular cultivars continues to grow. Two of the recent introductions, Burgundy Cotton and Rhapsody in Pink are truly unique and hold to the exceptional characteristics that Dr. Whitcomb first targeted.

Recent Introductions

Burgundy Cotton displays white flowers with yellow stamens, yet are pinkish under cool conditions. Showy, burgundy flower buds are followed by the full-blown flowers in early July and continue until first frost. The new growth is wine, then wine-green when flowering. The

broad, upright growth reaches 5 feet or more in one growing season, and may mature at 12 feet in height. It shows a high mildew resistance.

Rhapsody in Pink has a distinctly unique landscape appearance with soft pink flowers against nearly purple foliage that persists most of the season. This crapemyrtle has an upright form, growing to 12 feet, and again, is highly resistant to powdery mildew.

Summer Show-Offs

The Whit series of crapemyrtle is hardy to USDA Zone 7 or 6b. Once flowering is triggered to begin, many cultivars continue to flower for 100 to 120 days or more.

Few plants put on a greater summer show and for a longer time than crapemyrtle. Crapemyrtles like full sun where it is HOT! They grow slowly in the cool spring when other species are racing ahead. But when the heat of summer begins with sustained daytime temperatures




Whitcomb's Crapemyrtle Series

The Whit series currently has eight cultivars with outstanding characteristics. Dynamite, Red Rocket, Siren Red and Tightwad Red are all vivid reds, each with their own distinctive characteristics.

Raspberry Sundae and Pink

Velour round out the series with bold pink flowers.

For more information and images on each of these crapemyrtles, visit

www.lacebarkinc.com or www.greenleafnursery.com. 

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