Crepe Myrtle (aka Crape Myrtle)



Crepe Myrtle

There are, apparently, many varieties of Crepe Myrtle[1. The spelling seems to be equally correct, if either "Crepe Myrtle" or "Crape Myrtle" is used], under the scientific names, *Lagerstroemia speciosa* or *Lagerstroemia indica*. Our tree, in Davie, Florida, is about 10 or 15 years old and stands no more than 15 feet tall. We bought it in a pot at Flamingo Gardens. Some sources describe a taller variety (40 feet) as the *Queen Crepe Myrtle*. Our tree blew over in Hurricane Wilma (2005). We tipped it back up, and braced it with a two-by-four for a couple of years. I'm expecting it to be history when we have our next big storm. But until then, it has beautiful pink blooms, pictured here.

According to *Tropical Trees* (Dorthy and Bob Hargreaves, Ross-Hargreaves, publishers, 1965):

> *Speciosa comes from the Latin meaning "pleasing to the eye." This beautiful deciduous tree, native of India, in certainly pleasing to the eye. It is valued for its tough red timber, medicinal use, and ornamental beauty. Many in South Florida, Jamaica, and other Caribbean Islands, Puerto Rico, Trinidad, South America and Mexico.*