PLANT FACT SHEET

Lagerstroemia parviflora Roxb.

GENUS *Lagerstroemia* **FAMILY** Lythraceae

COMMON NAMES Crepe myrtle

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Gum, Leaves

A sweet gum from wounds in the bark is eaten.
The young leaves are added to Amorphophallus commutatus. This is probably to help with the oxalate issues irritating the throat,

DESCRIPTION

A large deciduous tree. It grows 30 m tall. The bark is light brown. It peels off leaving lighter patches. The leaves are opposite and 5-10 cm long. The flowers are small and white. They are in panicles in the axils of the leaves near the ends of branches. They have a scent. The fruit are oval and 2 cm long. The base is enclosed in a cup.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows up to 1,000 m above sea level. It is best where the average temperature is between 20°C and 38°C. It is most common in areas with a distinct dry season. It suits areas with an average rainfall between 1,500-3,500 mm. It is best in a sunny position. It cannot grow in water logged soils. It is best with a pH between 5.5 to 6.5.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seeds. Seeds are best stored for 2 or 3 years before planting. The tree can be cut back and will re-grow. It can also be grown from cuttings.

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