

Real Estate

GREEN HOUSE

Add flower power

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The selection of right plants for landscaping and for driveways is the key to beautifying any area. Besides other plants, profusely flowering *lagerstroemia indica*, *plumeria rubra* and *plumeria alba* independently are capable of transforming any neglected area into an eco-friendly and a beautiful landscape.

The outstanding features of *lagerstroemia indica* or crepe myrtle are its colourful flowers which come in white, mauve and purple hues. The tree is laden with clusters of flowers all around, during the peak summer season and this flowering season lasts for about three months and in a season when most of the other plants are bereft of flowers. This unique feature has made it a popular choice for home and public garden landscaping and as a driveway plant. One can see this plant at most places in the urban landscape.

It is native to India and is grown all over the world. It is a tree-like multi-stemmed upright and deciduous ornamental bush. For its elegant look, it should be grown with 2-3 distinct stems; all other suckers emerging from the base should be removed periodically. Unlike other trees, its bark exfoliates thin flakes annually, which adds to its beauty to reveal a fresh light look. Leaves are small and dark green, changing to yellow and orange in autumn. After the flowering season, the branches should be pruned in the last week of February with a sharp cutter to encourage the plant for bushy growth in order to grow more clusters of blooms in the next season.