

Crape Myrtle Pruning

Please stop the practice of "topping" crape myrtle trees. Removal of all of the branches at an arbitrary height is called "topping". This common practice is unnecessary, ugly and weakens the tree.



Figure 1. Topped crapemyrtles.

NO



Figure 2. A well-pruned crapemyrtle.

YES

When Pruning follow these easy steps:

- 1. Prune no earlier than mid February of each year. Earlier pruning will subject tender, new growth to freezing temperatures.*
- 2. Remove suckers from the bottom of the tree.*
- 3. Remove crossed, diseased, weakened or injured branches.*
- 4. Remove the old seed heads.*