



FACEBOOK LIVE WEBINAR

Techniques for Limbing Up Your Crepe Myrtles

During these warmer months of the year, we can start enjoying some of our favorite blooming trees and shrubs, including crepe myrtles! We know that crepe myrtles need pruning in the winter months, but what do you do when you need to trim a little around the edges now? Join Mike Westphal, the Garden Guru, as he shows us how to limb up crepe myrtles for a fantastic summer season.

HAMPTON ROADS' FAVORITE TREE

Crepe myrtles grow in abundance in USDA zones 6-10. It is known as the "Tree of 100 Days" due to its 3 month blooming period that starts in late spring, all the way through the summer, and sometimes into fall, depending on the location and variety. For even more information about crepe myrtles, check out Mike's other webinar here.

Time for a Trim

Of course we all recognize crepe myrtles as trees, but naturally, they grow as large shrubs. We limb up crepe myrtles to help with appearance, as well as aid in any problems that can occur when it comes to pests and disease.

Benefits:

- Air flow
- Show off bark or growth habit
- Force growth upwards
- To be able to walk under or sit under
- Allows for more plants to be grown underneath the tree

Tools for the Job

- Bypass pruners
- Lopping sheers
- Saw
- Ladder
- Gloves
- Other cutting tools (as needed)

Tips for Trimming

When limbing up your crepe myrtles, make sure you use flush cuts very close to the main trunk to prevent re-growth. Even when you do this, however, suckers can continue to pop up throughout the season. You can continue to prune these as they appear or use a product like "Sucker Stopper". Remember to visualize the shape you are trying to achieve before you prune your crepe myrtle; this will help you avoid any extra, unnecessary pruning.

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Accessorizing Your Landscape with Annuals

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Ways to Create Impact -

The biggest pro to planting annuals in your landscape is the intense color you can add to your beds with just one day of work. There are different effects that you can create with various planting methods such as working within a color scheme, adding annuals just to the bed borders, or creating a desired pattern through blocks of color.

PRO TIP: Adding in helpful pairing products such as compost, perlite, and Espoma's Biotone Starter Plus can help your annuals grow faster and fuller.

Your Landscape, Your Design

Remember when following these guides from the Garden Guru that this is still your landscape, so do what makes you happy! For more gardening inspiration, follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

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