

## Crape myrtle Decapitation

How to and how much to prune is the question...

Experts across the country have difficulty agreeing how a crape myrtle should be pruned. Do you lightly prune from the bottom up or more severely from the top down?

Now I know there are Longhorns reading this article that believe Aggies don't even know how to change a light bulb. But, somehow, they do seem to know a thing or two about plants. ☺

Experts from the San Antonio area have assembled useful information from The AgriLife Extension service through Texas A&M. This information is available on a wonderful website called PlantAnswers. Our local experts believe crape myrtles do not require heavy pruning to promote blooms. Flowers are produced on new growth and a light pruning will suffice. See the following article at:

[www.plantanswers.com/crapemyrtle.htm](http://www.plantanswers.com/crapemyrtle.htm)

Remember, when it comes to pruning trees do your own research and leave it to the professionals. But be careful. Anyone can call themselves an expert!

## Plant of the Month



### *Crape myrtle trees*

Why is the Crape myrtle a great plant for Crownridge?

- Drought tolerant after being well-established (2 years)
- Grows well in alkaline soil
- Long life span
- Disease resistant
- Available in a variety of sizes from shrubs to trees; colors include pink, white, lavender and red.
- Flowers all summer
- Displays fall foliage
- Beautiful bark
- Fast growing

SA Express News- Gardening.  
September 2005