



Crape Jasmine



Crape jasmine



'Flore Pleno', a double-flowered type

Tabernaemontana divaricata (L.) R. Br.
(synonyms: *T. coronaria* (Jacq.) Wild., *Ervatamia coronaria* (Jacq.) Stapf., *E. divaricata* (L.) Burkill)

Common names: Crape jasmine, crape gardenia, pin-wheel flower, East Indian rosebay, flowers-of-love, Adam's apple, paper gardenia, single crepe gardenia

Native habitat: Northern India

Size

Crape jasmine is a fast growing, tropical shrub or small tree 8–15 ft high and about 6 ft or more wide. Prune lightly to shape and to maintain desired size.

Characteristics

Crape jasmine is an attractive evergreen tree with green twigs and milky sap. The shiny, opposite, dark green leaves, 3–6 inches long, are ovate and pointed, narrowing into a short stem that clasps the twig. The white, waxy flowers with five or six lobes are 1–2 inches in diameter. They have some fragrance at night and are produced most of the year. The fruit, an orange-red pod, is rarely produced under Hawaii's conditions.

Location

This plant may be grown in full sun or partial shade. It tolerates many different soil conditions, including some

flooding. It does best with soil of pH 4.6–6.0, an organic mulch over the root zone, and constant moisture. It does not tolerate salinity. Crape jasmine requires little attention once established. The plant has some problems with whiteflies, scales, caterpillars, nematodes, and sooty mold.

Landscape uses

Crape jasmine can be used as a shrub border-screen or hedge when planted 5 ft apart. It has medium texture, shiny foliage, and attractive flowers. It is also useful in background plantings. With time, it can be developed into an attractive small tree.

Propagation

New plants may be started from stem cuttings taken from partially mature wood of current season's growth. Rooting hormones are beneficial. The plant can also be air-layered.

Cultivars

'Flore Pleno' (fleur-d'amour or butterfly gardenia) is a form with clusters of pure white, lacy double flowers and wavy, narrow leaves. 'Grandifolia' is a cultivar with larger leaves and double flowers.

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