**No More Knuckles and Stubs**

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Crepe myrtles are among our most useful landscape plants. There is a crepe myrtle for every landscape situation for full sun from ground covers to 40 ft. tree. All of them provide summer blooms and some have decorative bark and autumn leaf color.

One key to satisfying crepe myrtle use is to select the mature height, shape and flower color that exactly fits the need in your landscape.

Make the choice even more perfect by selecting crepe myrtles that are resistant to powdery mildew. If the nursery does not have a list that reports mildew resistance, select one named after an American Indian tribe, they are all disease resistant hybrids.

There is another development in crepe myrtle culture that usually makes the plant more desirable. We have realized that they do not have to be pruned to knuckles and stubs each spring. Most only need the suckers and dead wood removed. They will produce enough new stems to provided maximum bloom performance without destroying their natural shape.

**Garden Tasks**

Begin the spray program on your peaches, apples and plums when half of the petals have fallen. Spray a fungicide and insecticide every week to produce blemish free fruit.

The best way to control the winter weeds that are trying to form seed heads in the lawn is to keep them mowed. Prevent the new hot weather weeds from germinating by applying a pre-emergent herbicide such as Crabgrass Preventer.

The cool weather annuals such as snapdragons, cyclamen and pansies have several months of prime bloom period left. Keep them well watered and provide an application of slow release lawn fertilizer.

Aerate and top dress you lawn with compost to combat compaction, improve water penetration and bring organic material into the root system