

## TEXAS HIGHWAYS—CRAPE MYRTLES—WWH—MALLORY

### Crape Myrtle Charisma

Crape myrtles grow statewide, but several cities have promoted the showy shrub and host events to celebrate it. (Listed venues are wheelchair accessible.)

**Waxahachie** hosts the fourth annual Crape Myrtle Festival & Driving Trail **July 3-4**, 2001. Events include: July 3, a free fireworks show and concert by the Dallas Wind Symphony at dusk, approximately 7:30 p.m., at Lumpkins Stadium (from downtown take N. Dallas Hwy./US 77 Business to Waxahachie H.S. and turn east on Indian Dr.); July 4, a 10 a.m. parade on W. Main St., and an arts & crafts fair 11-4 at Getzendaner Park (both are free). For details and a driving trail map, contact the Waxahachie Convention & Visitors Bureau (102 YMCA Dr., Box 187, Waxahachie 75168; 972/937-2390; [www.waxacofc.com](http://www.waxacofc.com)) or stop by the Ellis County Museum's visitors center on the downtown square (201 S. College; 972/937-0681), open Tue-Sat 10-5 and Sun 12-4.

**Paris** holds its annual Crape Myrtle Queen Coronation and concert by the Paris Municipal Band on **July 20**, 2001 in Bywaters Park (300 block of S. Main St.). The Paris Municipal Band also performs among Bywaters Park's crapes on June 15, 22, and 29, and July 13 and 20. On July 3, it performs with fireworks in Noyse Stadium (1100 block of 24th St. S.E.). All events are free and begin at 8:30 p.m.

Crape myrtles are also on view at the downtown plaza (US 82 at US 271 Business) and on the grounds of the **Sam Bell Maxey House State Historical Park** (812 S. Church St.; 903/785-5716). For other suggested viewing sites,

contact the Lamar County Chamber of Commerce (1651 Clarksville St., Paris 75460; 800-PARIS TX or 903-784-2501; [www.paristexas.com](http://www.paristexas.com)).

**McKinney** has planted the first 6 of a planned 20 miles of crape myrtles. Take US 75 to US 380 and go west to see one mile of color. Take Texas 5 south of downtown and go west on Eldorado Pkwy all the way to Orchid Dr. to view 5 miles of crapes. The program is coordinated by the Crape Myrtle Trails of McKinney Foundation (Box 2909, McKinney 75070; 972/529-6708; [www.crapemyrtletrails.com](http://www.crapemyrtletrails.com)).

Crape lovers in McKinney also formed the new **Crape Myrtle Society of America** which holds its first meeting at 7 p.m., **June 28**, 2001, at the Pavilion at Texas A&M Research and Extension Center in Dallas, 17360 Coit Road (1/2-mile north of Campbell Road). Nationally-known speakers will cover crape myrtle topics for growers, researchers, and home gardeners. For more information, call the Crape Myrtle Trails of McKinney Foundation (972/529-6708).

In **Bryan-College Station**, look for crape myrtles along Texas 2818 (Barbara's Byway), Texas 6 Business (Texas Ave.) across from Texas A&M Univ., Richard Carter Park (1800 Brazoswood St.), and George Bush Presidential Library and Museum (1000 George Bush Dr. West, 969/260-9552, ext. 224).

Contact Brazos Beautiful (1733 Briarcrest Dr. #202, Bryan 77807; 979/776-6227). The TAMU Horticultural Gardens (Texas A&M University, College Station 77843-2134; 979/845-3658; <http://hortgardens.tamu.edu>) planted 30 varieties of crape myrtles this spring along a half-mile trail. From University

Dr. go north on N. College St., take the first right turn (Hensel Dr.) and look for the entrance. Hours: dawn-dusk daily; guided tours on Tue. and Fri. by prior arrangement.

In **Burleson**, look for crape color along I-35W north and south of town, as well as Warren Park (200 SW Johnson Ave.), Chisemhall Park (500 Chisemhall Ln.), the public library (248 SW Johnson Ave.), the police station (225 W. Renfro St.), and schools and churches. For more information, contact the Burleson Chamber of Commerce (1044 SW Wilshire Blvd., Burleson 76028; 817/295-6121).

In **Abilene**, crape myrtles are at the entrance to Rose Park (S. 7<sup>th</sup> St. at Barrow St.) and at railroad crossings along S. First St. and N. First St. Contact Keep Abilene Beautiful (Box 60, Abilene 79604; 915/734-3301) [NOTE: S. FIRST AND N. FIRST ARE TWO DIFFERENT STREETS]