

## *Lagerstroemia speciosa*

**Botanical name:** *Lagerstroemia speciosa*

**Common name:** Pride of India

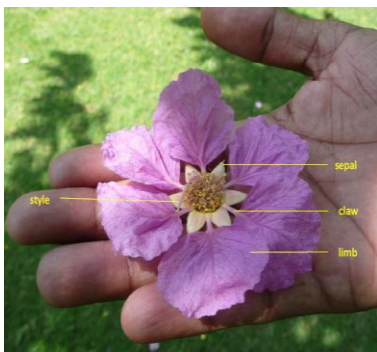
### **Morphological characters:**

*Lagerstroemia speciosa*, also known by the common name Pride-of-India, is a shrub to large tree with multiple trunks or stems diverging from just above ground level. This species can grow up to 15 m in height and has a wide spreading crown. The bark is distinctive as it is light brown in color and often peels from the trunk in large regions revealing the smooth new bark that is forming underneath. The leaves of Pride-of-India are oblong, are up to 30 cm long and 13 cm wide, and are quite leathery. The flowers of this species are variable in color, with white, purple, and lavender flower color forms often seen. The flowers are produced in clusters at the tips of the branches so during flowering season create an attractive shot of color amongst the green foliage. The flowers are up to 7.5 cm wide and have five petals that appear crumpled, which is a characteristic of the Loosestrife family. The yellow color in the center of the flower is the stamens that produce the pollen with 130 to 200 stamens found in a single flower. The fruit is a capsule, which is dry at maturity and splits open to release the winged seeds.



### **Growing season and type:**

1. It is found at low to medium altitudes in comparatively open habitats, in disturbed or secondary forest, grassland, and along rivers.
2. The habitat may vary from well drained to occasionally flooded but not peat soil.
3. Trees shed leaves in the dry season.
4. Saplings flower when only a few years old but viable seed production begins at 15 years old.
5. Flowering is frequent, usually annually or even twice a year.
6. Each flower lasts for only 2-3 days.



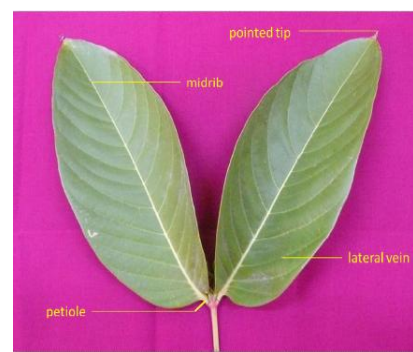
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1. Flower of *Lagerstroemia speciosa*



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2. Fruit of *Lagerstroemia speciosa*



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3. Leaf of *Lagerstroemia speciosa*