



## UCCE Master Gardener's of Glenn County Newsgram

September 2021

### Did your Crape Myrtles bloom white?

By Sheila Skemp Glenn County Master Gardener

A couple of weeks ago I surprised to see white blooms on my Red Rocket Crape Myrtles. So, I started doing a little investigating. I was unable to find any information about it on any UCANR site. Google led me to an article from Southern Living. The Southern Living article is a quick read and has the following sentence "When flowers open during cool, cloudy weather, instead of opening red, they open white." While, that is interesting, I wanted more evidence than one sentence in a short article. My next search led me to Gardens Alive and what turned out to be a lot of information about roses and grafted plants. If you persevere to the end there is this paragraph, "Full Sun Needed: Most red-flowered crape myrtles have one important quirk — flower buds that open under cloudy skies [or in shady situations] develop into pink or white flowers, not red. While some people find this attractive, most people are upset since they thought they bought red crape myrtles. Apparently, full sun is needed for full expression of the red flower pigment. Accordingly, gardeners, landscapers, and retailers should make sure, red-flowered crape myrtles are placed in areas receiving full sun." The article states that this information came from Dr. Knox, an expert at the University of Florida and his article "Seeing Red."

Not being content, having read their quote of Dr. Knox's article, my next hunt was for his original article. I could not find it ANYWHERE on the internet, but I did find Dr. Knox. I called his office and left him a message saying who I was and that I would really like to read his article "Seeing Red". I was extremely happy to find it in my email a few days later.

I had finally found my answer. While it has not been cloudy it has been extremely smokey in the valley. After discovering the white flowers on my Crape Myrtles, I started looking around for other examples. I saw some at my neighbors down the road, in the center divide of the freeway near the Main St. exit in Red Bluff and on the on and off ramps of that same exit, to list just a few examples.

And a small side note: I noticed while I was doing my searching that in some places it is spelled Crape and in other places it is Crepe. Both are used interchangeably and both are correct.



Photo of a red crape myrtle by Sheila Skemp.

The article prepared by Sheila includes the article written by Dr Knox. If you would like to view that article it is filed in VMS using the following link.

[https://vms-mg.ucanr.edu/files/mg/documents/7333Articles\\_and\\_Inforamtion\\_for\\_members90613.pdf](https://vms-mg.ucanr.edu/files/mg/documents/7333Articles_and_Inforamtion_for_members90613.pdf)



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### Master Gardener Business

#### Monthly Meeting

Our next meeting will be on September at 1:00. We will be meeting in the office.

#### Orientation for next training .

Two sessions are planned for getting the information out to the public about our next training beginning in January 2022. On September 1 from 2-3 after our monthly meeting and on September 11 at the Orland library from 1130 to 1230. We can schedule more if we need them.

#### COVID 19 Policy

UC Health leadership, issued a system-wide SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Vaccination Program Policy requiring all members of the UC community to be fully vaccinated from the COVID-19 virus in order to work or access UC facilities.

The COVID-19 Vaccination Program Policy applies to UC academic, staff and student employees and volunteers who regularly work in UC ANR workplaces.

Only volunteers who perform work similar to an employee and onsite at county offices or other UC ANR facilities are considered covered Individuals who must be vaccinated to be physically present onsite.

The Master Gardener coordinators have asked for clarification of this policy. Does it apply to volunteers who are in the office for the plant clinic? Stay tuned for more information.