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**Dirr**

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(54) **LAGERSTROEMIA PLANT NAMED**  
**'PIILAG-III'**

(50) Latin Name: *Lagerstroemia* L.  
Varietal Denomination: **PIILAG-III**

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(\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this  
patent is extended or adjusted under 35  
U.S.C. 154(b) by 395 days.

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(51) **Int. Cl.**  
**A01H 5/00** (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **Plt./252**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** ..... Plt./252  
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

PP16,917 P2 8/2006 Dirr

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Plant Introductions, Inc.—page showing color pictures of  
*Lagerstroemia* selections, (including PIILAG-III) from booklet dis-  
tributed at trade shows and to nurseries since Jan. 2010.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Lagerstroemia* plant named  
'PIILAG-III', characterized by its compact, upright interme-  
diate growth habit, red-purple new growth and dark green  
foliage in summer, red-purple fall color, true red flowers, and  
resistance to powdery mildew and *Cercospora* leaf spot.

**4 Drawing Sheets**

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Genus and species of plant claimed: *Lagerstroemia* L.  
Variety denomination: 'PIILAG-III'.

#### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar  
of *Lagerstroemia* plant, botanically known as *Lagerstroemia*  
L., commonly known as crapemyrtle, and hereinafter referred  
to by the cultivar name 'PIILAG-III'.

The new *Lagerstroemia* plant originated in 2006 from  
open-pollinated seed of 'Gamad I' (U.S. Plant Pat. No.  
16,917). The cultivar 'PIILAG-III' originated and was dis-  
covered in a cultivated environment in Dearing, Ga.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by stem cuttings  
in Watkinsville, Ga. since 2006 has shown that all the unique  
features of this new *Lagerstroemia*, as herein described, are  
stable and reproduced true-to-type through successive gen-  
erations of such asexual propagation.

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the new cultivar 'PIILAG-III' have not been  
observed under all possible environmental conditions. The  
phenotype may vary somewhat with changes in light, tem-  
perature, soil and rainfall without, however, any variance in  
genotype.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are  
determined to be unique characteristics of 'PIILAG-III'.  
These characteristics in combination distinguish 'PIILAG-  
III' as a new and distinct cultivar: 1. Compact, upright, inter-  
mediate growth habit; 2. Red-purple new growth and dark  
green foliage in summer; 3. Red-purple fall color; 4. True red  
flowers; 5. Resistance to powdery mildew and *Cercospora*  
leaf spot.

Plants of the new *Lagerstroemia* 'PIILAG-III' differ from  
plants of the parent, 'Gamad I', primarily in flower color and  
growth habit. Plants of 'Gamad I' have cherry red flowers, and

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a low, spreading growth habit, whereas plants of 'PIILAG-III'  
have true red flowers and a more upright and overall larger  
growth habit.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying color photographs illustrate the flower  
and foliage characteristics and the overall appearance of the  
new *Lagerstroemia*, showing the colors as true as it is reason-  
ably possible to obtain in color reproductions of this type.  
Colors in the photographs may differ slightly from the color  
values cited in the detailed botanical description which accu-  
rately describe the colors of the new *Lagerstroemia*.

FIG. 1 illustrates the overall appearance of a mature plant  
of 'PIILAG-III'.

FIG. 2 illustrates a close-up view of the inflorescences of  
'PIILAG-III'.

FIG. 3 illustrates a close-up view of the new growth of  
'PIILAG-III'.

FIG. 4 illustrates a close-up view of the fall color of  
'PIILAG-III'.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

In the following description, color references are made to  
The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 2001 Edition,  
except where general terms of ordinary dictionary signifi-  
cance are used. Plants used for the description were approxi-  
mately two and a half years old and were grown in 11.8 L  
containers under outdoor conditions in Watkinsville, Ga. Col-  
ors are described using The Royal Horticultural Society  
Colour Chart (R.H.S.).

Botanical classification: *Lagerstroemia* L., cultivar 'PIILAG-  
III'.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—*Lagerstroemia* 'Gamad I'.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Unknown (open-pollinated).



## Propagation:

*Type cutting.*—Terminal cuttings.

*Time to initiate roots, summer.*—About 21 days at 32 C. °.

Plant description: Flowering shrub; compact, upright growth habit. Freely branching; pruning enhances lateral branch development.

*Root description.*—Numerous, fine, fibrous and well-branched.

*Plant size.*—The original plant, now about four-years-old in the ground, is about 150 cm high from the soil level to the top of the inflorescences and about 120 cm wide.

*First year stems having a diameter of about 2 mm.*—Shape: squarish.

*Second year and older stems have a diameter of about 5 mm or more.*—Shape: round.

*Trunk diameter.*—About 2.2 cm at the soil line. Color: close to 199A.

*Internode length.*—About 1.5 cm.

*Strength.*—Flexible when young, easily broken once mature.

*First year stem color (young).*—Close to 180A. Color (woody): close to N199B.

*Second year and older stem color.*—Close to N199D.

*Bark.*—Exfoliates in strips beginning on second or third year stems.

Vegetative buds: Sub-opposite to alternate in arrangement, imbricate, conical, with no pubescence.

*Color.*—Close to 178B.

*Size.*—About 3 mm in length and 2 mm in width.

## Foliage description:

*Arrangement.*—Sub-opposite to alternate, simple.

*Length.*—About 4.5 cm.

*Width.*—About 2.2 cm.

*Shape.*—Elliptical.

*Apex.*—Acuminate.

*Base.*—Cuneate.

*Margin.*—Entire.

*Texture (upper and lower surfaces).*—Glabrous.

*Venation pattern.*—Pinnate.

*Venation color of emerging foliage (upper and lower surfaces).*—181A.

*Venation color of fully expanded foliage (upper surface).*—Close to 146B.

*Venation color of fully expanded foliage (lower surface).*—Close to 146D.

*Color in developing foliage (upper and lower surfaces).*—Close to 183A.

*Color in fully expanded foliage (upper surface).*—Close to 147A.

*Color in fully expanded foliage (lower surface).*—Close to 147B. Some of the mature foliage is close to 187A.

*Color of leaf margin in developing foliage (upper and lower surfaces).*—181A. Color of leaf margin in fully expanded foliage (upper and lower surfaces) ranges from 181B to 146B.

*Fall color.*—Can be 179A, 183C, or any combination of these colors.

*Petiole length.*—About 2 mm.

*Petiole diameter.*—About 1 mm.

*Petiole color (upper and lower surfaces).*—Close to 146B.

*Pubescence.*—None.

Flower description: Flowers are produced from about June to September in Watkinsville, Ga. An inflorescence is showy for about two weeks, and individual flowers last about one day and are self-cleaning.

*Inflorescence type.*—Panicle.

*Inflorescence length.*—About 13 cm.

*Inflorescence width.*—About 10 cm.

*Peduncle.*—About 11.5 cm in length, about 2 mm in diameter, color is close to 183B, and no pubescence.

*Individual flowers.*—About 2.2 cm by 4 cm.

*Flower buds.*—Length: about 9 mm; Diameter: about 8 mm; Color: close to 187B, maturing close to 46A.

*Pedicels.*—About 1 cm in length, close to 53A in color, and no pubescence.

*Calyx.*—About 1 cm in length, about 8 mm in diameter, color close to 46A, and no pubescence.

## Petals:

*Arrangement/appearance.*—Usually 6 per flower.

*Petal length.*—About 2 cm.

*Petal width.*—About 1.5 cm.

*Petal shape.*—Fan-shaped.

*Petal apex.*—Ruffled, rounded.

*Petal base.*—Sagittate.

*Petal margin.*—Ruffled.

*Petal texture (upper and lower surfaces).*—Glabrous.

*Petal color.*—Upper and lower surfaces are close to 53A.

## Stamens:

*Quantity/arrangement.*—About 20 to 25 short stamens clustered in the center, about 8 mm long, filament color is close to 38B, and anther color is close to 14A. The short stamens are surrounded by 6 longer stamens, about 1.5 cm long. Filament color is close to 53A, and anther color is close to 14A. The stamens are not pubescent.

*Pollen.*—Produced in moderate quantities and is close to 9B in color.

## Pistils:

*Quantity.*—One superior pistil per flower.

*Pubescence.*—None.

*Pistil length.*—About 2 cm in length.

*Stigma shape.*—Round, about 1 mm in diameter.

*Stigma color.*—Close to 148A.

*Style color.*—Close to 181A and about 1.3 cm in length.

*Ovary color.*—Close to 10B and about 3 mm in diameter.

## Fruit:

*Type/appearance.*—Six-valved, dehiscent, broad ellipsoidal capsule.

*Length.*—About 9 mm.

*Diameter.*—About 8 mm.

*Mature color.*—Close to 200C. Each capsule contains many seeds that are about 6 mm long, 4 mm wide, and close to 200C in color.

Disease/pest resistance: Plants of the claimed *Lagerstroemia* variety grown in field and container trials have exhibited resistance to powdery mildew and *Cercospora* leaf spot.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct *Lagerstroemia* plant named 'PIILAG-III', as illustrated and described herein.

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FIGURE 1





**FIGURE 2**





FIGURE 3





FIGURE 4