



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

*Loropetalum chinensis*¹

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Introduction

This native of China, Japan and the Himalayas makes a lovely addition to any landscape (Fig. 1). Although it is capable of growing to about 10-feet-tall, most specimens are seen at about 5 to 6 feet with a rounded canopy. Green, pubescent leaves emerge as the delicate white flowers fill the evergreen canopy for about two weeks in the spring. *Loropetalum chinensis rubrum* 'Monraz' (Razzleberri) comes to the United States from Japan and has raspberry-red flowers. Growers report it flowers several times each year. It will make for a welcomed addition to the collection of small, red-flowered shrubs.

General Information

Scientific name: *Loropetalum chinensis*

Pronunciation: lor-roe-PET-tuh-lum chy-NEN-see

Common name(s): Chinese Fringe-Bush

Family: *Hamamelidaceae*

Plant type: shrub

USDA hardiness zones: 7 through 10A (Fig. 2)

Planting month for zone 7: year round

Planting month for zone 8: year round

Planting month for zone 9: year round

Planting month for zone 10: year round

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: screen; hedge; border; specimen; espalier; small parking lot islands (< 100 square feet in size); medium-sized parking lot islands (100-200 square feet in size); large parking lot islands (> 200 square feet in size)

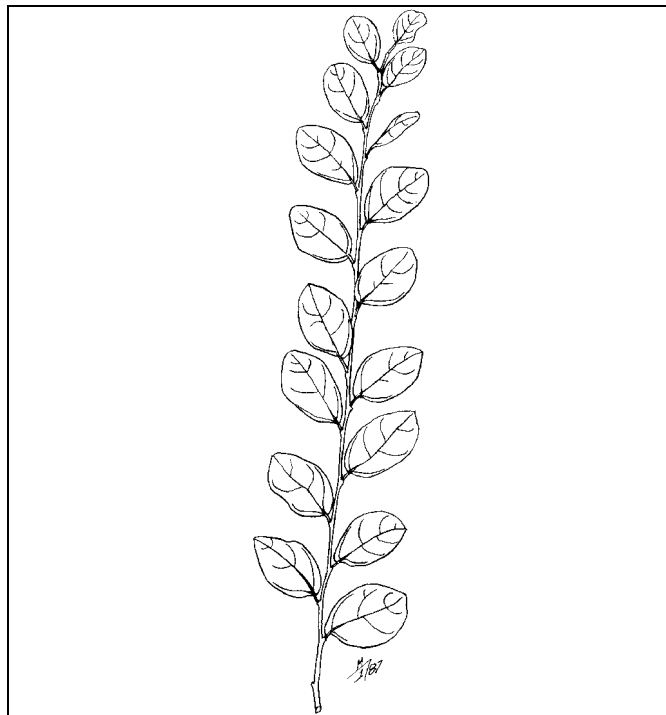


Figure 1. Chinese Fringe-Bush.

Availability: grown in small quantities by a small number of nurseries

Description

Height: 6 to 15 feet

Spread: 8 to 10 feet

Plant habit: upright; vase shape; spreading

Plant density: dense

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Growth rate: moderate

Texture: medium

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: alternate

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: serrate

Leaf shape: ovate

Leaf venation: pinnate

Leaf type and persistence: evergreen

Leaf blade length: less than 2 inches

Leaf color: green

Fall color: no fall color change

Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower color: red

Flower characteristic: pleasant fragrance; spring flowering

Fruit

Fruit shape: oval

Fruit length: unknown

Fruit cover: dry or hard

Fruit color: brown

Fruit characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: not particularly showy; typically multi-trunked or clumping stems; can be trained to grow with a short, single trunk

Current year stem/twig color: brown

Current year stem/twig thickness: thin

Culture

Light requirement: plant grows in part shade/part sun

Soil tolerances: slightly alkaline; clay; sand; acidic; loam

Drought tolerance: moderate

Soil salt tolerances: unknown

Plant spacing: 36 to 60 inches

Other

Roots: usually not a problem

Winter interest: no special winter interest

Outstanding plant: plant has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more

Invasive potential: not known to be invasive

Pest resistance: no serious pests are normally seen on the plant

Use and Management

Fringe-bush prefers an acid soil pH and a mostly sunny position in the landscape; whereas, azaleas prefer some shade. Use it as you would an azalea but in a sunnier location. Its small size makes it well suited for planting in the front of a shrub border as an accent. Mass several together to make a dramatic statement and a nice, delicate flower show.

Pests and Diseases

Mites can yellow the foliage. Soil nematodes and root rot causes plant decline. Micro nutrient deficiencies appear in alkaline soil.



Figure 3. Flower of Chinese Fringe-Bush