



## **Loropetalum**

### ***Loropetalum chinense***

#### **Introduction**

This native of China, Japan and the Himalayas makes a lovely addition to any landscape. 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

Planting month for zone 9: 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)

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

Growth rate: moderate Fruit cover: dry or hard

Texture: medium Fruit color: brown

#### **Foliage**

Leaf arrangement: alternate

Leaf type: simple Trunk/bark/branches: not particularly showy; typically multi-

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 characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy

### **Trunk and Branches**

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**

Fringebush prefers an acid soil pH and a mostly sunny position in the landscape; hereas, 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.

*by Edward F. Gilman*