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-roh-PEH-tuh-lum chy-NEH-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 it 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