

Loropetalum chinensis Chinese Fringe Bush¹

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Introduction

This native of China, Japan, and the Himalayas makes a lovely addition to any landscape. Although it can grow 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* var *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.



Figure 1. Full Form - *Loropetalum chinensis*: Chinese Fringe Bush
Credits: Edward F. Gilman, UF/IFAS



Figure 2. Leaf - *Loropetalum chinensis*: Chinese Fringe Bush
Credits: Edward F. Gilman, UF/IFAS

General Information

Scientific name: *Loropetalum chinensis*

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

Common name(s): Chinese fringe bush, Chinese fringe flower

Family: *Hamamelidaceae*

Plant type: shrub, tree

USDA hardiness zones: 7 through 10A (Figure 3)

Planting month for zone 7: year round

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Planting month for zone 8: year round

Planting month for zone 9: year round

Planting month for zone 10: year round

Origin: native to temperate and tropical Asia

Invasive potential: not considered a problem species at this time and may be recommended by UF/IFAS faculty (reassess in 10 years)

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



Figure 3. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Description

Height: 6 to 15 feet

Spread: 8 to 10 feet

Plant habit: upright; vase shape; spreading

Plant density: dense

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

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

Use and Management

Fringe bush prefers an acidic 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.

Pest and Diseases

Mites can yellow the foliage. Soil nematodes and root rot causes plant decline.

Micronutrient deficiencies appear in alkaline soil.