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-ro-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 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*