
Loropetalum chinense var. *rubrum* 'Blush' and 'Burgundy'



The U.S. National Arboretum presents 'Blush' and 'Burgundy', two of the first pink-flowered selections of *Loropetalum* to be brought to the United States. With flowers to "knock your socks off," these neon lights of the witchhazel family will delight you with their early April bloom. Whether featured in a container or in the landscape, 'Blush' and 'Burgundy' will light up your landscape.



'Blush'



'Burgundy'



**U.S. National Arboretum Elite Plants
Gardens Unit**

U.S. National Arboretum, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, 3501 New York Ave., N.E., Washington, DC 20002





'Blush' and 'Burgundy' Chinese Fringe-flower

Botanical Name:

Loropetalum chinense Oliv. var. *rubrum* Yieh 'Blush'
(NA 62904; PI 572309)
Loropetalum chinense Oliv. var. *rubrum* Yieh 'Burgundy'
(NA 62905; PI 572310)

Family:

Hamamelidaceae

Hardiness:

U.S.D.A. Zones 7b-9

Development:

Two selections of *Loropetalum chinense* var. *rubrum* were obtained from Nihonkaki Nursery, Kawaguchi City, Japan, by former Arboretum Director, John L. Creech, in September, 1989, at the request of Horticulturist Sylvester G. March. They were among the first *L. chinense* var. *rubrum* introduced into the United States and were subsequently named 'Blush' and 'Burgundy'. Over 15 different introductions of this particular pink-flowered variety of *Loropetalum* have been established in North America since the late 1980's. Some of these were obtained from the same sources in Japan and may be identical or closely related to 'Blush' and 'Burgundy'.

Significance:

Both 'Blush' and 'Burgundy' are unique, pink-flowered forms of the typically white-flowered species, *Loropetalum chinense*. The striking color of the flowers of this evergreen member of the witchhazel family has drawn attention to this under-utilized species.

Description:

Height and Width: Ultimate height and width at maturity not yet known. 'Burgundy' is reported to have reached a height of 14 feet. 'Blush' is more compact and may reach 6 feet in height and 4–5 feet wide.

Habit: Evergreen or semi-evergreen (depending on U.S.D.A. hardiness zone), robust, vase-shaped to rounded shrub to small tree: A supposition from observation of young plant material in the ground.

Foliage: 'Blush': new leaves bronze-red, maturing to medium olive green; rounded, 2.5 inches long, 1.5 inches wide; leathery with a ciliate margin. 'Burgundy': new leaves red-purple, older foliage dark reddish purple to dark olivegreen; 1.25–2.25 inches long, 1 inch wide; leathery with a ciliate margin. Foliage of 'Burgundy' may exhibit an orange red coloration in hardiness zones where it is not completely evergreen.

Flowers: Flowers of both cultivars are a shocking pink ('Blush' RHS red-purple 61B; 'Burgundy' RHS red-purple 67B), each flower consisting of 4 strap-like petals, each petal approximately 3/32 inch wide and 1 3/16 inches long. 'Blush' has 5–10 flowers per cluster while 'Burgundy' has 4–7 flowers per cluster.

Fruit: A woody capsule; sparsely produced.

Culture:

Prefers, moist but well-drained acid soils with high organic matter content. Grows well in full sun or partial shade but flowers best in full sun. Withstands pruning or shearing well. Plants may be evergreen to semi-evergreen in Zone 7 and cold injury may occur at temperatures of 0 to 5°F.

Propagation:

Roots easily by softwood or semi-hardwood cuttings under mist, 1000–3000 ppm IBA, in 4–6 weeks.

Landscape Use:

Specimen, mass planting, sheared evergreen hedge, container plant on patio, deck, or in greenhouse.

Availability:

Readily available from wholesale and retail nurseries.

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