

Stonegate Gardens

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www.stonegategardens.com

Red Chocolate Chinese Fringeflower



Red Chocolate Chinese Fringeflower

Loropetalum chinense 'Red Chocolate'

Height: 8 feet

Spread: 6 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 7b

Other Names: Chinese Fringe Flower, Chinese Witch Hazel

Description:

A very showy blooming shrub, with rich, reddish-pink strap-like flowers that literally smothering the plant; new leaves are burgundy, maturing to a very deep purple with burgundy overtones; a well-behaved shrub for general garden use

Ornamental Features

Red Chocolate Chinese Fringeflower is bathed in stunning fragrant hot pink strap-like flowers with cherry red overtones along the branches from late winter to late fall. Its attractive glossy oval leaves emerge burgundy in spring, turning deep purple in color with showy burgundy variegation and tinges of black the rest of the year.

Landscape Attributes

Red Chocolate Chinese Fringeflower is a multi-stemmed evergreen perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Red Chocolate Chinese Fringeflower is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use



*Red Chocolate Chinese Fringeflower
flowers*

Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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Planting & Growing

Red Chocolate Chinese Fringeflower will grow to be about 8 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 6 feet. It tends to be leggy, with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, and should be underplanted with lower-growing perennials. Although it is technically a woody plant, this fast-growing plant can be expected to behave as a perennial in our climate if planted outdoors over the winter, usually regrowing from its base (crown) the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. To help this plant achieve its best flowering performance, periodically apply a flower-boosting fertilizer from early spring through into the active growing season. It is particular about its soil conditions, with a strong preference for rich, acidic soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

This plant is not reliably hardy in our region, and certain restrictions may apply; contact the store for more information.