Loropetalum chinense and *L. chinense* var. *rubrum* evaluations

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Since 1991, when I procured ›Burgundy= and ›Blush=, a flood of Anew@ cultivars has appeared. Most have been tested with only ›Pink Pearl= (a red leaf, pink-flowered type) and a dwarf, red leaf form from Hines Nurseries not yet in the trials. Head-Lee Nursery, Seneca, SC has recently patented ›Snow Muffin=, a 15 to 18" high by "50" wide, leathery lustrous dark green leaf form, with white flowers. This particular cultivar will prove useful for groundcover and massing uses.

The current trial, replicated in sun and shade, encompasses 14 different selections. The concept was to assess growth rates, habit, and foliage colors. The plants are now two years old, have not been pruned, and were provided additional fertilizer on March 13, 2000.

For reference purposes our earlier studies have shown that:

1. Plum Delight **J**, Pizzazz **J**, and Hines Red Leaf/Hines Purple Leaf are the same.

2. var. *rubrum* (from Piroche Plants, British Columbia), ›Blush=, Razzleberri **J**, and Daybreak=s Flame **J** are the same.

3. ›Zhuzhou Fuchsia= and Pipa=s Red **J** are the same.

The following cultivar listing includes only foliage color taken on October 17, 2000 for sun and shade (50%) grown plants. Moderate water and fertilizer are the keys to foliage coloration. Plum Delight **J** and ›Zhuzhou Fuchsia= have the best red-purple coloration.

Foliage color on October 17, 2000
key: 1 = green, 5 = red/purple

<u>Green Leaf Types</u>

›Compact=	sun: 1 shade: 1
›Snow Dance=	sun: 1 shade: 1
Species	sun: 1

shade: 1

<u>Red Leaf Types</u> (var. *rubrum*)

›Blush‹	sun: 1.50 shade: 2.25
›Bicolor‹	sun: 1.50 shade: 2
›Burgundy‹	sun: 3 shade: 3.50
Fire Dance **J**	sun: 4 shade: 3.50
Pipa‹s Red **J**	sun: 4.50 shade: 4.25
Plum Delight **J**	sun: 4.50 shade: 5
›Ruby‹	sun: 4 shade: 4
›Sizzling Pink‹	sun: 4 shade: 3
›Suzanne‹	sun: 3.50 shade: 3.50
›Variegata‹	sun: 1.25 shade: 1.50
›Zhuzhou Fuchsia‹	sun: 4.50 shade: 4.50

Fast-growing, large forms: Fire Dance **J**, Pipa‹s Red **J**, ›Zhuzhou Fuchsia‹

Slower growing, more compact forms: ›Ruby‹, ›Suzanne‹

Green selection of note: Snow Dance **J** with smaller habit and foliage, excellent garden potential.