Fraser Photinia, Red Tip
(*Photinia x fraseri*)

Alex X. Niemiera, Associate Professor, Department of Horticulture

**Summary:**
- **Foliage:** Evergreen broadleaf
- **Height:** 20 feet
- **Spread:** 10 feet
- **Shape:** Upright

Red tip is a large evergreen shrub. Newly emerging foliage is red and quite showy for a few weeks after which it changes to glossy, dark green. Clusters of white flowers occur in late spring. This plant is widely used in the south as a hedge. Unfortunately, this plant is overused in the landscape and is also susceptible to a serious leaf spot disease.

**Plant Needs:**
- **Zone:** 7 (6b) to 9
- **Light:** Partial shade to full sun
- **Moisture:** Moist or dry
- **Soil Type:** Sandy, loam, or clay
- **pH Range:** 3.7 to 7.3

**Functions:**
- Suggested uses for this plant include hedge, massing, screen, and border.

**Planting Notes:**
- Adaptable to a wide range of soil pH.
- Select site with well-drained soil and good air circulation.

**Care:**
- Easy to grow.
- Withstands severe pruning.

**Problems:**
- Susceptible to several problems including mildew, leaf spots, fireblight, scale insects, and a few other insects. Entomosporium leaf spot is especially prevalent and injurious in spring when conditions that favor fungal growth are prevalent.
- Winter injury is likely in cooler areas (6a and lower) of Virginia.

**Alternatives:**
- Consult local sources, including historic or public gardens and arboreta, regarding cultivars and related species that grow well in your area.

**Cultivars of *Photinia x fraseri***:
- No important cultivars.

**Comments:**
- Red Tip is seen everywhere in the south because it is easy to grow and tolerates poor growing conditions.
- The flower odor of unpruned plants is obnoxious to some people and should be considered before planting close to walkways and entrances.
- Most often used as a hedge or screen.

---

This material was developed by Carol Ness as part of the Interactive Design and Development Project funded by the Kellogg Foundation.