

Shrubs & Groundcovers  
Deciduous

Map #15, 16, 17, 18

## *Cotoneaster*

(*Cotoneaster* spp.)

Family: *Rosaceae*



Creeping Cotoneaster



Hedge C. leaves



Spreading C. flowers



Creeping C. fruit and  
Herringbone pattern branches



Hedge C. fruit and leaves

**Leaves:** simple, rounded, lustrous dark green above, lower surface may be fuzzy; red or purplish in fall holding later than most.

**Buds:** alternate, often pressed up against the stem.

**Stems:** young may be reddish purple and hairy; older are ragged, gray brown; maraschino cherry smell when bruised or crushed (more so on low-growing species); young branches often grow in a fishbone or herringbone pattern from the older ones.

**Bark:** shiny dark brown with pronounced lenticles.

**Flowers:** pinkish in mid-spring, small; attractive up close but not ornamentally important.

**Fruits:** pome (papery endocarp like apples and pears); generally red; in late summer.

**Habit:** low-growing, spreading, mounding to upright or wide spreading shrub.

**Culture:** adaptable except requires excellent drainage; tolerates high pH soil; medium to high salt tolerance; full sun to light shade; usually container grown. No serious pest problems.

### **Related species:**

**Creeping C.** (*C. adpressus*) - very dwarf—1 1/2' tall by 4—6' wide; roots where branches touch the ground; leaf margins undulating; very good, dark red fruit.

**Cranberry C.** (*C. apiculatus*) - 3' tall by 3—6' wide; leaf margins undulating.

**Rockspray C.** (*C. horizontalis*) - 2—3' tall by 5—8' wide; low, flat with a layered effect and distinctive herringbone pattern; leaves not undulating on margins; flowers profusely and therefore showy; fruit often hidden by foliage.

**Hedge C.** (*C. acutifolius* or *C. lucidus*—*confused in the trade*) - 6—10' tall and wide, erect shrub; leaves 2" x 1" with good yellow fall color; stems light brown and peeling like onion skin; fruit black in summer and persisting.

**Spreading C.** (*C. divaricatus*) - 5—6' tall by 6—8' wide spreading shrub; outstanding fall color of yellow-red-purple for 4—6 weeks; fruit red.



Hedge Cotoneaster



Rockspray Cotoneaster fall color and branching

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