

Cotoneaster - Growing Guide

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There are so many different species of cotoneaster that it is difficult to provide you with common themes. Some are deciduous, some evergreen and some partway between the two. Some are decent sized trees, many are shrubs and quite a few species are groundcover plants. There is a recently published book on cotoneasters with a foreword by Roy Lancaster which shows pictures and describes well over a hundred different species and many more hybrids originating in Europe, Asia and North Africa. Seed from around 15 of the rarest forms in the wild has recently been grown by a nursery in Belgium and these have just been planted out at Caerhays to test them out.

Cotoneaster are not, in the main, grown for their cup shaped white (occasionally pink) flowers but, rather, for their spectacular autumn fruits which are normally rounded and red but can also be yellow or blue-black. All the species we grow are totally hardy and most will readily tolerate dry conditions in full sun. Most shrubby species respond well to occasional hard pruning so that the new growth will produce more berries. Although birds love the ripe berries do not eat them yourself unless you want a stomach upset.

Seed can be sown in containers as soon as ripe in the autumn. Deciduous species root well from cuttings in early summer. Evergreen species propagate better from cuttings taken later in the summer and most groundcover species will root as hardwood cuttings set in a frame in the ground in late autumn.

1. Groundcover species

C. dammeri – this species grows around 8in high but can spread over 6ft. The berries are spherical and red. Evergreen.



Cotoneaster dammeri



Cotoneaster horizontalis



Cotoneaster horizontalis



Cotoneaster horizontalis
& Vitis coignetiae



Cotoneaster horizontalis
& Vitis coignetiae



Cotoneaster microphyllus



Cotoneaster microphyllus



Cotoneaster microphyllus



Cotoneaster 'Skogholm'



Cotoneaster 'Skogholm'



Cotoneaster 'Coral
Beauty'



Cotoneaster 'Coral
Beauty'

C. conspicuus is a dense mound forming evergreen growing up to around 5ft but with a greater spread. Shiny red fruit in profusion.



Cotoneaster conspicuus



Cotoneaster conspicuus



Cotoneaster conspicuus



Cotoneaster franchettii



Cotoneaster franchettii



Cotoneaster lacteus



Cotoneaster lacteus



Cotoneaster hualiensis

3. Tall shrubs and small trees

C. 'Exburyensis' – this is a vigorous arching evergreen with pointed green leaves. The key feature of this variety is its large clusters of bright yellow fruits. Grows to 15ft with a similar spread.



Cotoneaster 'Exburyensis'



Cotoneaster 'Exburyensis'



Cotoneaster 'Exburyensis'



Cotoneaster 'Exburyensis'



Cotoneaster 'Hybridus Pendulus'



Cotoneaster 'Hybridus Pendulus'



Cotoneaster 'Hybridus Pendulus'



Cotoneaster
'Rothschildianus'



Cotoneaster
'Rothschildianus'



Cotoneaster
'Rothschildianus'



Cotoneaster frigidus
'Inchmery'



Cotoneaster 'Inchmery'



Cotoneaster 'Inchmery'



Cotoneaster 'Inchmery'

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