

COTONEASTER

Cotoneasters are a very popular bonsai subjects because of their flowers and berries, because they are easy to maintain and are extremely hardy. They do very well in the standard bonsai soil, are relatively drought and heat resistant and not cold-sensitive.

They can be shaped in all bonsai styles, using both the clip-and-grow and wiring methods. Feeds of superphosphate applied the previous winter will facilitate flowering and fruiting. Whilst all may not be available in all areas the following is the choice that is available to us:

Cotoneaster horizontalis (Rock- or fish-bone cotoneaster). Is a semi-deciduous slow growing, low spreading bush. The distinctive fish-bone arrangement of short twigs crowded with small, dark green shiny leaves which change to beautiful yellow, orange and red fall colours. It bears small, pink flowers in late spring and red berries. In autumn, leaf reduction practices are not necessary because the leaves are very small.



Cotoneaster glaucophylla is an evergreen fast grower which attains heights of 2,5 to 3 metres. Its leaves are small, shiny green. In spring the bush is covered by racemes of white flowers. The red berries stay on the bush until late in winter. Some leaves discolour to a beautiful red-brown during autumn.

Cotoneaster conspicuus

(Tibet) green shining leaves masses of white flowers bright red berries in summer.

Cotoneaster dammeri (China) white flowers and coral red berries. *Cotoneaster franchetti* (China) slender arching shrub. Pinkish flowers in early summer orange scarlet berries in autumn.

Cotoneaster microphyllus (Himalayas) dwarf, wide-spreading bush scarlet berries.

Cotoneaster salicifolius (China) var "Autumn fire" produces bright red berries.