

Cotoneaster

Cotoneaster franchetii,
C. glaucophyllus,
C. lacteus, *C. microphyllus*
C. simonsii



Family Rosaceae (rose family)

Identification

- Spreading **evergreen** shrubs or small trees
- Leaves **alternate**, usually arranged in two rows, young leaves hairy below
- **Shoots hairy**, at least when young
- Flowers small, **white-pink**, from late spring to early summer
- **Orange-red to scarlet** berries present from summer through to winter



From left - right: *Cotoneaster franchetii*, *C. glaucophyllus*, *C. lacteus*, *C. microphyllus* and *C. simonsii* Photo: K. McCombs



Cotoneaster glaucophyllus Photo: K. McCombs

Why is it a problem?

Cotoneaster species form dense stands, out-competing desirable plant species. Cotoneaster is tolerant of a wide range of conditions including drought, damp, hot, cold, salt and shade. It is long-lived and produces plentiful, highly viable seed that is spread by birds.

Control

Dig out small plants. Cut larger plants at ground level and treat stump with herbicide. Plan to control whole areas to minimise re-seeding by birds. Replant cleared sites with dense groundcover or shrubs to prevent seedling re-growth. Use all herbicides in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and ensure no herbicide comes into contact with other plants, the soil and waterways.

Status

Cotoneaster glaucophyllus and *C. franchetii* are listed on the Canterbury Regional Pest Management Strategy as restricted pest plants. They are banned from sale, distribution and propagation within Canterbury. Most cotoneaster species appear to have weed potential and should be monitored carefully or removed.

Please refer to the table on the back of the fact sheet for more information on the individual cotoneaster species.



Cotoneaster franchetii Photo: A. Paltridge

Cotoneaster

The table and photos can be used to help identify five species of cotoneaster that are known to be growing wild within Canterbury.



	<i>C. franchetti</i>	<i>C. glaucophyllus</i>	<i>C. lacteus</i>	<i>C. microphyllus</i>	<i>C. simonsii</i>
Shrub	evergreen, 3m	evergreen, 3m	evergreen, 3m	evergreen, to 1m, prostrate	deciduous/semi-evergreen to 4 m
Typical size of leaf blade	30 mm x 15 mm	50 mm x 25 mm	60 mm x 30 mm	7 mm x 3 mm	20 mm x 10 mm
Leaf stalk	2 - 4 mm	2 - 7 mm	3 - 10 mm	0 - 33 mm	2 - 3 mm
Top surface	shiny, finely haired	dull, smooth	slightly shiny, wrinkled	smooth, dark green, glossy	hairy when young, later smooth and shiny
Lower surface	white/grey/pale buff, persistent woolly hairs	pale buff/white hairs below when young, later almost smooth and pale green	grey/white hairs below, hairs mostly persistent	finely hairy below, appearing blue-green to white	pale green/greyish green long hairs, later sparse
Flowers (then fruit)	7 - 15 per cluster	25 - 60 per cluster	2 - 80 per cluster	singly or in pairs	1 - 4 per cluster



Cotoneaster simonsii



Cotoneaster lacteus



Cotoneaster microphyllus



Cotoneaster glaucophyllus



Cotoneaster franchetii

Photos: K. McCombs