

Cotoneaster coriaceus

COMMON NAMES

cotoneaster

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

FLOWER COLOURS

White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Spreading evergreen shrub up to 3 m high. Young shoots buff tomentose and erect, later becoming glabrous, dark purplish and arching. Leaves up to 80m x 45 mm, slightly shining and with deeply impressed veins above, tomentose beneath, becoming less so with age. Flowers in clusters of 20-80, with spreading white petals. Fruit 5-8 mm diameter, glossy orange of scarlet red.

SIMILAR TAXA

Generally similar to *C. glaucophyllus* but leaves with veins strongly impressed above. and more flowers in each cluster.

HABITAT

Dry shrubland, forest margins, wasteland in urban places.

GENUS

Cotoneaster

FAMILY

Rosaceae

AUTHORITY

Cotoneaster coriaceus Franchet

SYNONYMS

Cotoneaster lacteus W.W.Sm

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

November, December, January

FRUITING

February-August.

YEAR NATURALISED

1988

ORIGIN

Yunnan (China)



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TOLERANCES

Tolerant of wet-dry conditions.

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Reproduces from seed, many seeds are produced per fruit, but viability is unknown at this stage. Seed is dispersed widely by birds.

ETYMOLOGY

cotoneaster: From cotoneus an old Latin name for the quince, and possibly aster, corruption of adinstar 'resembling', i.e. quince-like

ENVIRONMENTAL WEED (2024)

This plant is named in a list of 386 environmental weeds in New Zealand 2024 prepared by DOC. 759 candidate species were considered for inclusion on this new comprehensive list of environmental weeds in New Zealand. The species considered were drawn from published lists of weed species, lists of plants that must be reported or managed by law if observed, existing national and regional programmes and agreements for pest management, and species already managed by the Department of Conservation (DOC). Candidate species were then assessed to see if they were fully naturalised and whether they have more than minor impacts in natural ecosystems. Read the full report [here](#).

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

[Key to Cotoneaster species present in New Zealand](#)

NVS CODE

COTCOC

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Dickore WB, Kasperek G. 2010: Species of Cotoneaster (Rosaceae, Maloideae) indigenous to, naturalising or commonly cultivated in Central Europe. *Willdenowia* 40(2): 13-45.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/cotoneaster-coriaceus/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026