

Cotoneaster franchetii

COMMON NAMES

cotoneaster, Franchet's cotoneaster

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Widely branched shrub with arching branchlets, foliage conspicuously grey from a distance (young leaves densely hairy on both surfaces and remaining white-felted below when mature). Flowers with pink erect petals. Fruit orange with 3-5 pyrenes.

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Evergreen shrub up to c. 3 m high; stems spreading and often somewhat arching; young shoots pale buff-tomentose, later becoming dark reddish brown. Leaves up to 35 x 18 mm, more or less shining and finely pilose with impressed veins above, usually with white to grey woolly tomentum (rarely pale buff) below. Flowers in clusters of 7-15 scattered along branches, Petals erect and pink. Fruit ellipsoid, oblong-obovoid, obovoid, or subglobose, 5-9 mm long, scarlet or orange scarlet.

SIMILAR TAXA

Has been confused with *C. pannosus*, but that species has flowers with spreading petals and almost always has 2 pyrenes ('seeds') per fruit, whereas *C. franchetii* has flowers with erect petals and mostly has 3 (up to 5) pyrenes per fruit.

HABITAT

Terrestrial. Outcompetes native shrub species in a wide variety of habitats. Usually dry forest and shrubland up to 300 m, forest margins, dry rangeland, bluffs, rocky sites, slips, riverbeds.

GENUS

Cotoneaster

FAMILY

Rosaceae

AUTHORITY

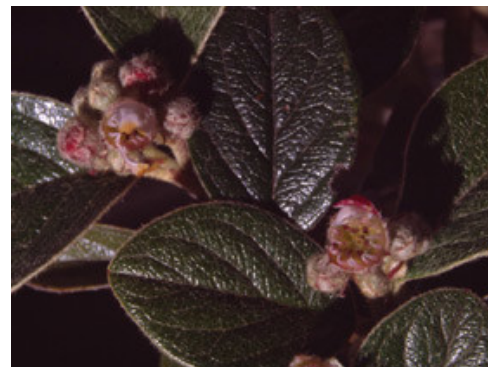
Cotoneaster franchetii Bois

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

November, December, January



Cotoneaster franchetii. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Cotoneaster franchetii. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Licence: CC BY-NC.

YEAR NATURALISED

1958

ORIGIN

China

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

TOLERANCES

Very tolerant of damp and drought, hot and cold, salt, and a range of soils.

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Perennial. Very long lived. Large numbers of viable seed are produced in each fruit. Fruit are readily dispersed 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

COTFRA

MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

27 May 2026