

Cotoneaster simonsii

COMMON NAMES

Khasia berry

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Deciduous or semi-evergreen shrub to 4 m. Stems erect or slightly arching; young shoots densely brown-tomentose, later hairless brownish-grey. Mature stems often covered in sooty mould. Leaves 13-25 x 7-15 mm; with thin hairs above when young, later hairless and shining, paler green with long hairs below, usually crowded or bunched along stems. Flowers small, whitish to pale pink, in clusters of 1-4, Nov-Dec. Berries 5-10 mm long, shining orange-red or scarlet.

SIMILAR TAXA

Can be confused with *C. franchetii* and *C. pannosus* based on general foliage dimensions. But can be distinguished because of its deciduous habit, and flowers are only in clusters of 1-4, with upright white-pink petals.

HABITAT

Terrestrial. Dry cool forest and shrubland up to 900 m., forest margins, dry rangeland, bluffs, rocky sites, slips, riverbeds. Potentially most cold dry open sites in New Zealand.

GENUS

Cotoneaster

FAMILY

Rosaceae

AUTHORITY

Cotoneaster simonsii Baker

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

November, December

FRUITING

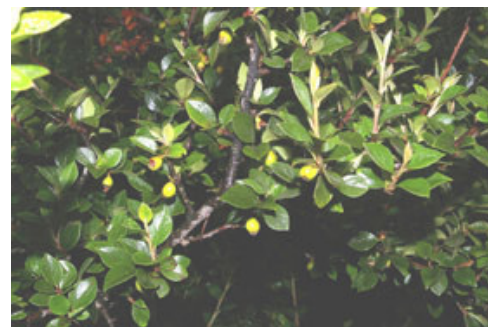
December to July

YEAR NATURALISED

1958



Cotoneaster simonsii. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Cotoneaster simonsii. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

ORIGIN

Burma

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

TOLERANCES

Very tolerant of damp and drought, cold, and a wide range of soils. Semi shade-tolerant.

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Perennial. very long lived. Reproduces from seed. Stumps often re-sprout. Many viable seeds are contained in each berry. Birds distribute seeds widely

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

UPL: Obligate Upland

Rarely is a hydrophyte, almost always in uplands (non-wetlands).

ETYMOLOGY

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

NATIONAL PEST PLANT ACCORD SPECIES

This plant is listed in the 2020 National Pest Plant Accord. The National Pest Plant Accord (NPPA) is an agreement to prevent the sale and/or distribution of specified pest plants where either formal or casual horticultural trade is the most significant way of spreading the plant in New Zealand. For up to date information and an electronic copy of the 2020 Pest Plant Accord manual (including plant information and images) visit the [MPI website](#).

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

COTSIM

MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

25 May 2026