

Cotoneaster simonsii

COMMON NAME

Khasia berry

FAMILY

Rosaceae

AUTHORITY

Cotoneaster simonsii Baker

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

COTSIM

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

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.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

UPL: Obligate Upland

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

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.

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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

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.

FLOWERING

November, December

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

FRUITING

December to July

LIFE CYCLE

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



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



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YEAR NATURALISED

1958

ORIGIN

Burma

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

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](#).

TOLERANCES

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

MORE INFORMATION

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