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Cotoneasters. The Cotoneasters with deciduous leaves discovered by Wilson in western China now form one of the interesting groups in the Arboretum, and among them are some of the handsomest shrubs of recent introduction, suitable for the decoration of northern gardens. Several of them are plants of exceptionally good habit with gracefully arching branches; the leaves on the different species vary in size, color, and texture, and on several of the species assume brilliant autumn colors; the flowers are small in small clusters, but are produced in the greatest profusion; and in autumn the branches are covered with red or with black fruits. The flowering time of these plants extends through several weeks; and Cotoneaster-fruits enliven the collection from September to December.

For the information of persons who may want to make a selection of these Cotoneasters for their gardens they may be grouped as follows:

1. Prostrate or semiprostrate shrubs with wide-spreading branches, small red flowers and fruit, and small, thick, dark green leaves persistent in this climate until the beginning of winter and further south until early spring. The best known plant of this group, *Cotoneaster horizontalis*, was sent by a French missionary to France many years ago from western China. It sometimes grows from two to three feet high and possibly ten feet in diameter, and is well suited for covering banks; it is sometimes used in rock gardens and as a cover for low walls. Two varieties of this plant, var. *Wilsonii* and var. *perpusilla*, discovered by Wilson are handsome plants; the former is inclined to grow taller than the type, but the var. *perpusilla* is a much dwarfer

and more compact plant. *C. adpressa* of this group is one of the handsomest of the Cotoneasters for the rock garden or for the edges of beds of taller shrubs.

2. Large shrubs with white flowers and red or orange-red fruits. In this group are *Cotoneaster multiflora calocarpa*, *C. racemiflora* and its variety *soongorica*, *C. gracilis* and *C. hupehensis*. These are perhaps the handsomest Cotoneasters which can be grown in this climate. The first is the earliest of the Cotoneasters to bloom, and its flowers in compact clusters have covered for more than two weeks now its gracefully arching branches on which the blue-green leaves are fast expanding. The orange-red fruit arranged in compact clusters ripens in September. Of the two forms of *C. racemiflora* the var. *soongorica* is the handsomer and perhaps the handsomest of the Arboretum Cotoneasters, and one of the handsomest shrubs of recent introduction. In habit and in the color of the leaves it resembles *C. multiflora calocarpa*, but the flowers are larger and the fruit is more brilliantly colored. *C. hupehensis* is a tall, broad, fast-growing shrub with dark green leaves, with larger flowers than those of the other species arranged in many-flowered compact clusters which cover the branches. The fruit is scarlet and lustrous, but in the Arboretum is only sparingly produced and is covered by the leaves. Seen from a distance when in flower this Cotoneaster looks like a large well-flowered Spiraea.

3. In this group may be placed the species with red flowers and red fruit, *C. bullata*, *C. bullata* var. *macrophylla* and var. *floribunda*, *C. Dielsiana* and its variety *elegans*, *C. Zabellii* and its variety *miniata*, *C. Franchetti* and *C. obscura*. *C. divaricata* and *C. Dielsiana* are perhaps the best garden plants in this group. They are large shrubs with wide-spreading, slightly drooping branches, small dark green lustrous leaves, and small inconspicuous flowers and fruit. *C. Franchetti* has not proved perfectly hardy in the Arboretum.

4. In this group are placed the species with red flowers and fruits such as *C. nitens*, *C. acutifolia* and its variety *villosula*, *C. ambigua*, *C. foveolata* and *C. moupinensis*. *C. nitens*, though its flowers and fruits are small, is perhaps the handsomest of the group for none of the Chinese Cotoneasters have more gracefully spreading branches and more lustrous leaves. By some persons it is considered one of four or five of the handsomest of the Chinese Cotoneasters which can be successfully grown in this climate. *C. moupinensis* and *C. foveolata* are the tallest of the Chinese Cotoneasters with larger leaves than the others. They are coarse and not very attractive shrubs, but the brilliant colors of the leaves of *C. foveolata* in autumn make it worth growing in large shrubberies.

Several species of Cotoneaster which do not come from China are established in the Arboretum. The best of these for this climate are perhaps the red-fruited European *C. tomentosa*, *C. integerrima*, a black-fruited Siberian shrub and one of the handsomest species, and the Himalayan red-fruited *C. macrophylla* with stems only a few inches high and gray-green leaves. The last and the Chinese *C. adpressa* are the best of the hardy species for the rock garden for which they are well suited.

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