

Notes on Cotoneasters

By John Dunbar



COTONEASTERS are unfamiliar shrubs in a great many gardens. Many of them are highly ornamental in habits, flowers, and fruits. Their habits are exceedingly variable. Some of the species are low trailing shrubs, and many of them are spreading, broad-headed shrubs from ten to fifteen feet in height. All of the species should be planted in well drained soil, and preferably in positions sheltered from the sweep of the prevailing cold winds.

Mr. E. H. Wilson introduced a number of new species from Western China to the Arnold Arboretum, and most of them are proving to be very ornamental in gardens and parks where they have been tested.

Cotoneaster acutifolia is an erect growing shrub with the branches slightly spreading. The leaves are about two inches long, nearly smooth, and dark green when mature. The ovoid black fruits are quite conspicuous in the autumn.

Cotoneaster amoena is an intricately branched shrub. The branchlets are thickly covered with the small leaves, deep green above whitish beneath, and from one-half inch to three-quarters of one inch long, and are persistent until midwinter. The clusters of showy red fruits are produced in great abundance and are conspicuous from September until the end of November.

Cotoneaster divaricata is an upright growing shrub with the branches somewhat intricate. The leaves are small, not over one inch in length, but they are thickly set on the branchlets and deep glossy green. The bright fruits on short stalks are particularly showy in September and October. The foliage usually assumes a bright orange red color in the autumn.

Cotoneaster Dielsiana has spreading and drooping branches.

The leaves are usually from three-quarters of one inch to one inch long, and cover the branches thickly, and are pale green in color. The subglobose red fruits ripen in September and are showy until the end of October. With its gracefully pendant branches this species is highly ornamental.

Cotoneaster foveolata is a rapid growing robust shrub, with spreading branches. The dull green leaves are from two to three inches long. The black subglobose fruits are ripe in September. The most ornamental feature of this species is the bright orange-red color of the foliage in the autumn.

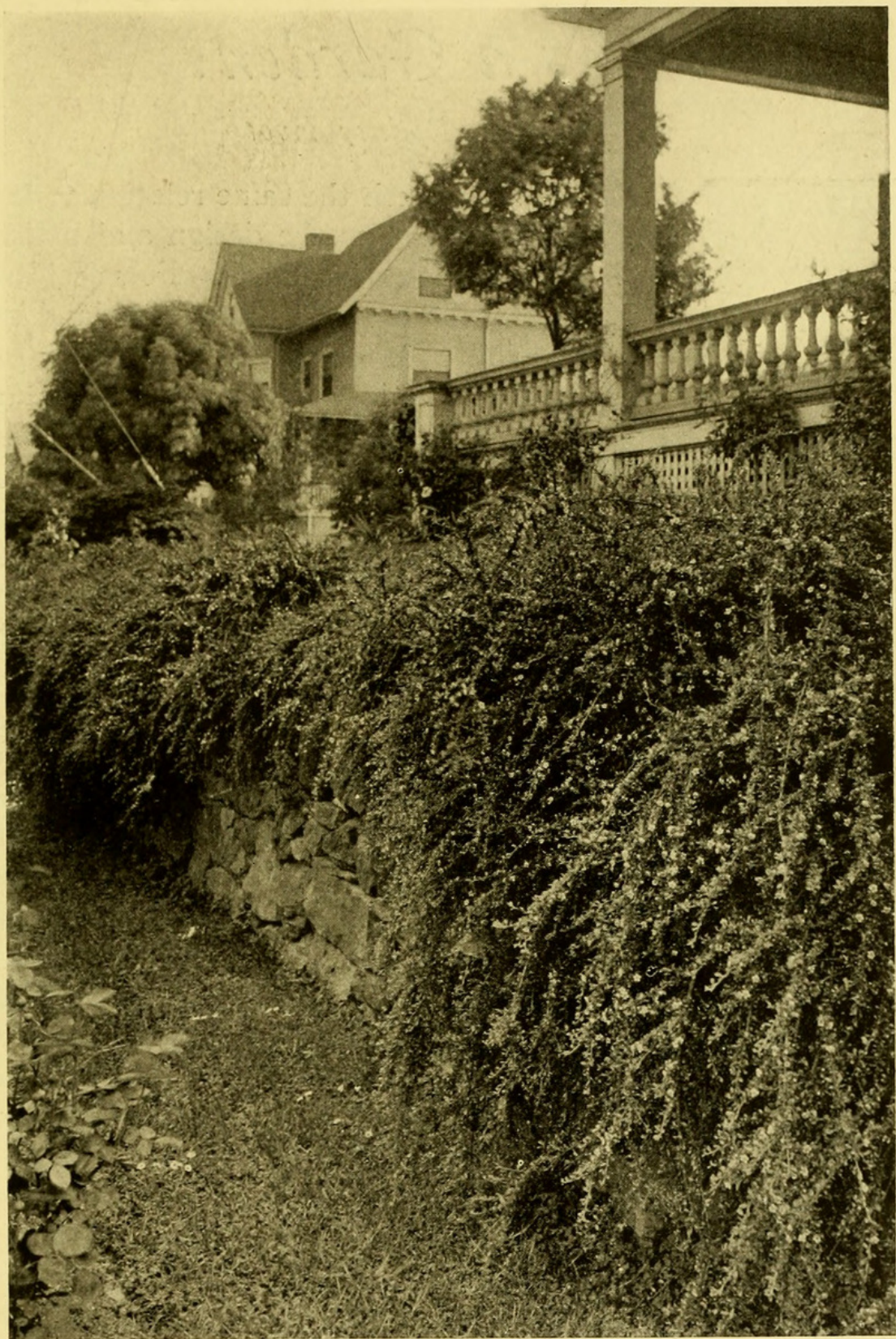
Cotoneaster Franchetti is a charming species. The branches are spreading and gracefully drooping. The leaves are usually about one and a half inches long, pale green above, whitish beneath. The scarlet to orange-red fruits are particularly showy in September to the end of November. The foliage is persistent until December or later. This is one of the most ornamental species of the genus.

Cotoneaster Henryana is a shrub with branches semi-prostrate, and leaves about three inches long, deep green and rugose above. The fruit is said to be red, but it has not yet produced fruits with us. It is very ornamental in its spreading habit.

Cotoneaster multiflora is a slender branched shrub with the branches slightly arching. The deep green leaves are from one and one-half to two inches long. The numerous clusters of white flowers are quite conspicuous in this species about the end of May. The red fruits are interesting in September and October, but not as showy as in some other species.

Cotoneaster salicifolia is a most interesting species with spreading pendulous branches. It is said to ultimately attain a height of fifteen feet, but with us it shows no tendency to attain any such height. The leaves are from two to two and one-half inches long and are persistent until mid-winter. The subglobose fruits are bright red, and are ornamental in October until December, and beneath the snow retain their color until mid-winter.

Rochester.



COTONEASTER MICROPHYLLA
FOR WALL PLANTING



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