Ground Cotoneaster

Cotoneaster horizontalis

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 7 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5a

Other Names: Rock Cotoneaster, Rockspray Cotoneaster



Ground Cotoneaster
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Ground Cotoneaster fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Description:

A choice plant for massing and grouping, featuring unforgettable 'herringbone' branching in horizontal tiers; pretty pink flowers in spring followed by brilliant red fruit in fall

Ornamental Features

Ground Cotoneaster is primarily valued in the garden for its cascading habit of growth. It features tiny clusters of pink flowers along the branches in mid spring. It has dark green deciduous foliage. The tiny glossy round leaves turn an outstanding brick red in the fall.

Landscape Attributes

Ground Cotoneaster is a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with a shapely form and gracefully arching branches. It lends an extremely fine and delicate texture to the landscape composition which should be used to full effect.

This shrub will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should not require much pruning, except when necessary, such as to remove dieback. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Insects

Ground Cotoneaster is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover

Planting & Growing

Ground Cotoneaster will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 7 feet. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 30 years.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist locations, and should do just fine under typical garden conditions. It is not particular as to soil type or pH, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is not originally from North America.



Ground Cotoneaster foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder