



## Towards the Identification of Alien Cotoneasters in Northumberland (VC67 & VC68)

James Common (Version 1, 2023)

### Introduction

The table below provides an account of the alien Cotoneaster species recorded in a wild and naturalised state in Northumberland. These have been highlighted in **green**. Additionally, it includes several species known from the wider UK which may turn up in the future. These are highlighted in **yellow**. Those highlighted in **red** are less likely but are included for reference either because they occur readily in cultivation or in a naturalised state elsewhere in the UK. Assumptions about species likely to turn up in the future have been made using the BSBI's Plant Atlas 2022 accounts.

To aid in comparison, species are grouped by shared features. While this often corresponds to family, this is not always the case. Particular attention has been given to leaf features though it should be noted scrutiny should focus on mature leaves on sterile shoots. Flowers are best examined early in the season. Where applicable, information on the status of a given species in Northumberland has been provided for reference. Simplified comparisons between frequent or very similar species are included at the end.

The information below has been aggregated for ease from Fryer and Halmo (2009) and where applicable, the *Alien Plants of Belgium* (<https://alienplantsbelgium.myspecies.info/>) website which provides much useful information on this group.

Where possible, the author has compared the below features to cotoneasters observed in the field or grown in the garden. The former include: *C. horizontalis*, *hjelmqvistii*, *atropurpureus*, *divaricatus*, *dammeri*, *x suecicus*, *integrifolius*, *microphyllus*, *franchetii*, *sternianus*, *dielsianus*, *lacteus*, *frigidus*, *salicifolius*, *x watereri*, *bullatus*, *boisianus* & *rehderi*. Those currently in cultivation also include *C congestus*, *moupinensis*, *adapressus* & *lucidus*.

This document lists some 40 naturalised cotoneaster species. It should be noted that over 80 now occur within the UK.



## Identification

Species	Habit, height	Leaf	Leaf size (mm)	Leaf Surfaces	Flower/Sepal Characteristics	Fruit	Notes/Status
<b>Herring-bone cotoneasters</b>							
Dwarf to medium shrubs with horizontally spreading branches and smaller leaves, usually strongly distichous - with a very noticeable herring-bone pattern. Leaves with a flat or minimally undulated margin ( <b>Horizontales</b> ). Alternatively, dwarf, procumbent shrubs with a less indistinct herring-bone pattern. Leaves with a strongly undulating margin ( <b>Adpressi</b> ). Series <i>Adpressi</i> is included here due to possible confusion with some members of series <i>Horizontales</i> .							
<b>Cotoneaster horizontalis</b>	Shrub, 0.5-1m. To 3.5m on walls.	Deciduous, subcoriaceous. Suborbicular, orbicular or broadly obovate. Leaf tips apiculate, mucronate. Margin flat.	5-12 (L) x 5-9 (W)	<b>Above:</b> Dark green & shiny. Becoming glabrous with 2-4 veins. <b>Below:</b> Sparsely strigose.	1-3 flowers per shoot. Pedicels 1-2mm, strigose. Corolla closed, petals dark red with a blackish base and pale crimson border. Stamens 10. Filaments dark-red, anthers white.	5-6mm, subglobose. orange-red, shiny & subglabrous. <b>Nutlets:</b> 3.	One of the more commonly recorded cotoneasters across VC67 & VC68. Frequent in gardens and readily spreading to walls, pavements, and human structures. Also, sand dunes, brownfield, dry banks, grassland, and other well-draining habitats. Occasionally dominant.
<b>Cotoneaster hjelmqvistii</b>	Shrub, 0.5-1m. To 7m supported.	Deciduous. Chartaceous, orbicular. Apex mucronate. Margin flat. Petiole 2-4mm.	13-25 (L) x 10-25 (W)	<b>Above:</b> Light green, shiny, glabrous, 3-4 lightly impressed veins. <b>Below:</b> Yellowish pilose-strigose.	Usually 3 flowers per shoot. Pedicels 0.5-2mm. Corolla open, petals erect, dark pink with a red base and pink border. Stamens 10-16. Filaments red, anthers white.	8mm. Globose to obovoid, orange-red, glabrous; calyx lobes obliquely erect. <b>Nutlets:</b> 2.	One record from 2012 (Groom, Quentin) and a further 10 in 2023 (Common, James). Likely much confused with <i>H. horizontalis</i> . Frequent in gardens and municipal schemes. Observed in a wide range of habitats: walls, railway sidings, brownfield, and grassland.
<b>Cotoneaster atropurpureus</b>	Shrub, 0.5-1m. To 3-4m supported	Deciduous. Chartaceous & obovate-orbicular. Tips obtuse or truncate, mucronate. Margin slightly undulate.	9-14 (L) x 8-12 (W)	<b>Above:</b> Mid to dark green, shiny, glabrous, 2-3 veins. <b>Below:</b> Very sparse shiny golden-yellow pilose.	Usually 3 flowers per shoot. Pedicels 0.2-1mm. Corolla closed or small opening, petals erect, dark red with purple-black base and thin white border. Stamens 10. Filaments dark purple red with white apex; anthers white, tinged pink.	7-8mm. Obovoid, & orange red. Subglabrous; calyx lobes erect. <b>Nutlets:</b> 2.	One 2023 record from VC67 in Jesmond Dene (Common, James). More widespread elsewhere in the UK so potentially overlooked for <i>C. horizontalis</i> ? A single record relates to a specimen growing on a shaded riverbank.
<b>Cotoneaster divaricatus</b>	Shrub, 1.5-2m. Usually spreading, branchlets divaricate, not strongly fish-boned.	Deciduous. Chartaceous, broadly elliptic or suborbicular. Tip acute or acuminate. Margins undulate.	10-30 (L) x 7-19 (W)	<b>Above:</b> Dark green, shiny, initially sparsely strigose, 3-4 veins, lightly impressed. <b>Below:</b> Initially strigose.	Usually 2 flowers per shoot. Pedicels 2-4mm. Corolla with small opening. Petals erect-incurved, pale-crimson with dark red base and white border. Stamens 10-15. Filaments pale rose-pink or white; anthers white.	10-11mm. Cylindrical. Dark red shiny, sparsely pilose. Calyx lobes suberect. <b>Nutlets:</b> usually 2.	Two 2023 records from Newcastle-upon-Tyne, VC67 (Common, James). On both occasions, this species was observed growing in stonework.

<b>Cotoneaster apiculatus</b>	Shrub, 1-1.5m, spreading with tips ascending. Branchlets divaricate, not strongly herringbone.	Deciduous. Chartaceous, orbicular or sub-orbicular. Apex apiculate or acute. Margin flat to slightly undulate.	10-20 (L) x 8-16 (W)	<b>Above:</b> dark green, shiny & glabrous. Veins 2-3 slightly impressed. <b>Below:</b> sparsely pilose.	Usually 1 subsessile flower per shoot. Corolla closed or with a small opening. Petals erect-incurved, blackish purple red. Stamens 10. Filaments dark red, anthers white with mauve dots.	10-11mm. Globose & orange red to red. Shiny. Styles remain visible from the base. <b>Nutlets:</b> usually 3.	A single record from Embleton, VC68 (Metherell, Chris). Not seen since and little information about preferred habitat. Presumed casual.
<b>Cotoneaster ascendens</b>	Shrub, 1-2m. Branches ascending, strongly herringbone.	Deciduous. Chartaceous, elliptic. Margins undulate. Apex acute or acuminate.	14-23 (L) x 8-14 (W)	<b>Above:</b> light green, shiny, subglabrous. 4 impressed veins. <b>Below:</b> sparsely strigose, more so on the midrib.	2-3 flowers per shoot. Corolla closed or with a small opening. Petals erect-incurved, red and pink with a white border. Stamens 10-15. Filaments pink with red base and white apex. Anthers white.	7-8mm. Subglobose, rich red and shiny. Calyx lobes depressed; tips erect.	Not yet recorded in the area but known from Cumbria and various sites in Yorkshire. Records widespread.
<b>Cotoneaster adpressus</b>	Mound-forming shrub to 0.3m. Branches divaricate,	Deciduous. Chartaceous, elliptic-suborbicular. Margin slightly undulate. Petiole 1-2mm.	8-15 (L) x 5-12 (W)	<b>Above:</b> dull green, glabrous, veins 2-3. <b>Below:</b> subglabrous, midrib strigose.	Usually 1 flower per shoot. Corolla open, petals erect and dark red. Stamens usually 10. Filaments red-pink, anthers white.	6-7mm. Globose and bright red. Styles remain 4/5 from base. <b>Nutlets:</b> 2.	Not yet recorded in the area but scattered records across the UK, including Scotland's central belt. Readily available online and presumably, popular in cultivation. A likely escapee.
<b>Cotoneaster nanshan</b>	Shrub, 0.5-1m. Branches erect or prostrate.	Deciduous. Chartaceous, suborbicular or broadly elliptic. Apex apiculate. <b>Margin extremely undulate.</b>	12-25 (L) x 9-24 (W)	<b>Above:</b> dull green, initially with a few strigose hairs. Veins 3-4. <b>Below:</b> sparsely strigose, midrib densely so.	2-4 flowers per shoot. Corolla with large opening, petals erect-incurved with an undulate margin. Petals red and pink with an off-white margin. Stamens 10-12. Filaments dark red, anthers white with a pink stripe.	10-12mm. Subglobose, bright red, glabrous. Calyx lobes suberect. <b>Nutlets:</b> 2, rarely 3.	Not yet recorded in the area. Scattered records at a few sites across the UK.

### Carpeting to prostrate cotoneasters

Low, creeping, mat forming species, usually with larger leaves than *those listed below*. Not noticeably herringbone (***Radicantes***).

<b>Cotoneaster dammeri</b>	Carpeting shrub to 0.2m. Branches procumbent, rooting at nodes.	Evergreen. Coriaceous or subcoriaceous, elliptic. Apex acute or rotund.	15-40 (L) x 7-21 (W)	<b>Above:</b> light to mid-green, rugose and very shiny. Often single hairs on mid-rib. Veins 5-8 deeply impressed. <b>Below:</b> grey-green, reticulate, initially villous.	2-3 flowers per shoot. Corolla open, petals spreading and white. Stamens 20. Filaments white, anthers purple black.	6-7mm. Globose, red, shiny, and glabrous. Calyx lobes suberect, glabrous. <b>Nutlets:</b> 5.	First recorded in 2003 at Hallidon Hill, VC68 (Braithwaite). Now known from four sites in Northumberland ranging from chalk spoil heaps to grassland and urban wasteland.
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<b>Cotoneaster x suecicus</b>	Shrub, 0.4-0.6m. Semi procumbent.	Semievergreen. Subcoriaceous and elliptic. Apex rotund or emarginate.	10-23 (L) x 4-10 (W)	<b>Above:</b> dark green and shiny. Initially sparsely pilose. <b>Below:</b> grey green, initially strigose-villous, <b>midrib often red.</b>	2-6 flowers per shoot. Corolla open, petals spreading, white. Stamens 15-20. Anthers purple black.	4-7mm. Globose and scarlet. <b>Nutlets:</b> 2-4.	First recorded in Newcastle, VC67, in 2023 (Common, James). Now found at four sites within the city, usually close to municipal planting schemes. Typical habitat old walls, stonework, riverside infrastructure, ruderal patches.
<b>Cotoneaster prostratus</b>	Shrub, 0.5-1m. Prostrate and wide-spreading.	Evergreen. Subcoriaceous, elliptic or oblong. Apex acute, obtuse or rotund.	6-13 (L) x 4-8 (W)	<b>Above:</b> dark green, slightly shiny, initially strigose-pilose. Veins 2-4. <b>Below:</b> grey green, initially pilose-strigose.	1 or rarely 2 erect flowers per shoot. Corolla spreading, petals white and glabrous. Stamens 20. Filaments white, anthers purple.	9-11mm. Depressed globose, crimson, full and sparsely hairy. Calyx lobes flat. <b>Nutlets:</b> 1	Not yet recorded in the area. Scattered records at a few sites across the UK.
<b>Cotoneaster cochleatus</b>	Shrub, dense and carpeting, 0.2-0.4m.	Evergreen. Coriaceous, obovate to suborbicular. Apex rotund or obtuse.	5-14 (L) x 3-9 (W)	<b>Above:</b> slightly rugose, dark green, shiny, and glabrescent. Veins 2-3. <b>Below:</b> grey, reticulate, initially densely strigose-villous.	Usually 1 flower per shoot. Corolla spreading, petals white. Stamens 20, never less than 15. Filaments white, anthers purple.	7-9mm. Crimson and sparsely pilose. Calyx lobes suberect, sparsely strigose. <b>Nutlets:</b> 2.	Not yet recorded in the area. Scattered records at a few sites across the UK.

### Carpeting or mounding cotoneasters with noticeably small leaves

Creeping to medium shrubs, often wide spreading. Leaves grayish or mid-green with veins minimally impressed (**Conspicui**). Prostrate to medium shrubs, densely branched. Branchlets dark purple, leaves 4-45mm but generally on the small side (**Microphylli**).

<b>Cotoneaster integrifolius</b>	Shrub 0.5-1.5m.	Evergreen. Coriaceous, spiraled, oblanceolate or oblong	8-17 (L) x 3-8 (W)	<b>Above:</b> Dark green or glaucous, shiny, initially strigose. Veins 2-4. <b>Below:</b> Greyish white, faintly reticulate, densely strigose to pilose.	1 (rarely 2) subsessile flower(s). Buds pink. Petals spreading, white, glabrous. Stamens 20. Filaments white, anthers red-purple.	7-9mm. Depressed globose, dark rich red, dull, or slightly shiny, sparsely villous. Calyx lobes erect or suberect. <b>Nutlets:</b> 2.	Scantly recorded across both VC67 and VC68. Recorded from a mixture of coastal and inland sites, seldom far from habitation. 8 sites as of 2023. Very common in cultivation and perhaps under-recorded.
<b>Cotoneaster microphyllus</b>	Shrub, 0.6-1m, often mound-forming.	Evergreen, coriaceous, spiraled (rarely distichous), (broadly) elliptic to (broadly) obovate.	7-13 (L) x 4-9 (W)	<b>Above:</b> Mid to dark green, shiny, sparsely strigose, 2-4 veins. <b>Below:</b> Grey-green, initially strigose.	1-2 flowered. Buds pink. Corolla width 7- 11mm, petals spreading, white. Stamens 20; filaments white; anthers violet, black.	6- 8mm. Depressed globose, crimson, subglabrous; calyx lobes erect or suberect, pilose. <b>Nutlets:</b> 2	First recorded at Sunnyside Hill (VC68) by G. A Swan in 1983. Outlying records in rural areas but most numerous in urban areas of Newcastle where it is one of the commonest naturalised cotoneasters. Still widely planted despite restrictions.
<b>Cotoneaster thymifolius</b>	Shrub, 0.3-1m.	Evergreen, coriaceous, spiraled. Linear or narrowly obovate. Apex	5-12 (L) x 2-3 (W)	<b>Above:</b> Dark green, almost blackish. Shiny, sparsely strigose-pilose. 2-4 veins. <b>Below:</b> grey, strigose.	1 subsessile flowered. Corolla width 6-9mm, petals spreading. Petals white, often with a little pink on the reverse. Stamens 15-20. Filaments	3-6mm. Globose or depressed globose. Crimson, dull, hairless, calyx lobes erect. Style remains	A single record from Belford, VC68 in 2019 (Metherell & Metherell). Stands to reason that this species may be more widespread given possible confusion with <i>C. microphyllus</i> .

		rotund or obtuse. Margin recurved.			white, anthers violet, black.	at apex. <b>Nutlets:</b> 3.	
<b>Cotoneaster conspicuus</b>	Demise shrub, 0.5-2.5m. Prostrate, mound-forming or erect.	Evergreen, subcoriaceous or coriaceous. Distichous or spiralled. Roughly lanceolate. Apex obtuse or acute.	6-20 (L) x 2-8 (W)	<b>Above:</b> Mid or grayish green, slightly shiny, hairless, or sparsely pilose, 3-5 veins. <b>Below:</b> grayish green, initially sparsely pilose. Reticulate.	1 flowered. Flower buds pink. Corolla 9-13mm. Petals spreading, white. Stamens 20. Filaments white, anthers purple black.	8-10 (L) x 9-11 (W). Erect, depressed-globose. Orange-red, shiny, hairless, calyx lobes suberect. Styles remain at apex. <b>Nutlets:</b> 2.	Not yet recorded in the area. Scattered records at a few sites across the UK.
<b>Cotoneaster congestus</b>	Shrub, variable. 0.2-1m. Mostly dense and congested. Carpeting.	Evergreen, or semi-evergreen. Chartaceous or subcoriaceous. Obovate. Apex rotund or obtuse.	4-13 (L) x 3-8 (W)	<b>Above:</b> smooth, pale to mid-green, usually dull, glabrous or with few hairs on midrib while young. 2-3 veins. <b>Below:</b> grey green, initially sparsely pilose.	1 flowered. Buds pink and white. Corolla 7-9mm. Petals spreading, white. Stamens 20. Filaments white, anthers violet.	8-10mm. Crimson to cherry-red. Glabrous, calyx lobes subglabrous. <b>Nutlets:</b> 2	A single record from Belford, VC68, in 2019 (Metherell & Metherell). Fairly frequent in cultivation and liable to escape elsewhere.
<b>Cotoneaster cashmiriensis</b>	Shrub, dense and carpeting, 0.2-0.5m.	Evergreen. Coriaceous, elliptic or obovate-elliptic. Apex obtuse or acute. Mucronate.	4-11 (L) x 3-7 (W)	<b>Above:</b> mid to dark green, shiny. Initially sparsely long-haired pilose. Veins 2-3. <b>Below:</b> grayish green, reticulate, pilose-strigose.	1 flowered. Flower buds white or faint pink. Corolla 8-10mm. Petals spreading, white. Stamens 18-20, filaments white, anthers purple.	8-10mm. Globose. Crimson, dull with a few pilose hairs. Calyx lobes erect, pilose. <b>Nutlets:</b> 2.	Not yet recorded in the area. Scattered records at a few sites across the UK.

### Cotoneasters with leaves boasting noticeably white-silver tomentose (wooly) undersides.

Dense, multi-stemmed shrubs with dark green leaves (above) and heavily tomentose undersides which vary in colour from green to white (**Section Franchetoides**) and select members of series **Pannosi**.

<b>Cotoneaster franchetii</b>	Shrub, 2-3m.	Evergreen. Widely spaced, coriaceous, ovate or elliptic. Apex acute or acuminate.	25-37 (L) x 13-19 (W)	<b>Above:</b> Slightly rugose, grey green, slightly shiny, pilose. Veins 4-5, impressed. <b>Below:</b> Silvery tomentose.	5-15 flowered. Corolla with small opening. Petals erect-incurved, pink with dark red, border off-white. Stamens 20. Filaments purplish-pink; anthers pink to purple.	8-10mm. Obovoid, orange-red, shiny & sparsely pilose. Calyx lobes erect to semi-spreading, tomentose. <b>Nutlets:</b> 3.	Recorded for the first time in 2010 in VC67 (Groom). One of the more widespread naturalised cotoneasters. Can be numerous in urban settings but occurring virtually anywhere.
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<b>Cotoneaster sternianus</b>	Shrub, 3-4m. Multi-stemmed and dense. Branches erect and arched. Graceful.	Evergreen. Coriaceous, elliptic to broadly ovate.	37-49 (L) x 20-28 (W). Often noticeably larger than <i>C. franchetii</i> .	<b>Above:</b> Very rugose, dark green, slightly shiny, pilose. Veins: 4-5, deeply impressed. <b>Below:</b> Whitish tomentose.	7-20 flowered. Corolla with small opening; petals erect-incurved, dark red with minute black dots. Pink or white border. Stamens 20. Filaments red with pink and white apex; anthers white with pink-tinged border.	9-10mm. Globose or depressed-globose, orange-red, pilose. Calyx lobes flat, tomentose. <b>Nutlets</b> 3-4.	Recorded for the first time in 2022 in VC67 (Common) and since found at several sites. Predominately isolated shrubs in marginal habitats e.g. railway banks and waggonways.
<b>Cotoneaster pannosus</b>	Shrub, to 5m. Erect and arched, somewhat pendulous.	Evergreen. Coriaceous, broadly elliptic. Apex acute or obtuse.	20-37 (L) x 10-26 (W)	<b>Above:</b> slightly rugose, mid-green, dull, initially sparsely pilose. Veins: 2-4, lightly impressed. <b>Below:</b> whiteish tomentose.	5-15 flowered. Flower buds white. Corolla open, 7-10mm, petals spreading, white, sometimes with hair tufts. Stamens 20. Filaments white, anthers purple.	6-7mm. Globose, red, shiny, villous. Calyx lobes suberect, tomentose. <b>Nutlets:</b> 2.	Not yet recorded in the area. Scattered records at a few sites across the UK.
<b>Cotoneaster wardii</b>	Shrub, 2-3m. Loosely erect, arched & spreading.	Semi-evergreen. Spaces widely apart (30-40mm). Chartaceous, ovate. Apex acuminate or acute.	25-45 (L) x 15-20 (W)	<b>Above:</b> slightly rugose, dark green, glabrescent. Veins 4-6, impressed. <b>Below:</b> silvery tomentose.	3-9 flowered. Petals erect, dark red with white border. Stamens 20. Filaments pink and red, anthers white.	9-10mm. Obovoid, orange-red, villous. Calyx lobes flat, densely villous. <b>Nutlets:</b> 2-3.	Not yet recorded in the area. Scattered records at a few sites across the UK.
<b>Cotoneaster vilmorinianus</b>	Shrub, 2-3m. Erect, arched and graceful.	Evergreen. Coriaceous, elliptic or ovate. Apex acute or acuminate.	20-26 (L) x 11-19 (W)	<b>Above:</b> slightly rugose, grayish green, somewhat shiny. Pilose. Veins 3-4, impressed. <b>Below:</b> white tomentose.	7-15 flowered. Petals semi-spreading, pale mauve with a red base. Stamens 20. Filaments red and pink, anthers pink-mauve.	8-9mm. Depressed globose or obovoid. Cardinal red, shiny, pilose. Calyx lobes erect.	Not yet recorded in the area. Scattered records at a few sites across the UK.

### Cotoneasters with leaves boasting noticeably green-grey tomentose (wooly) undersides

Series *Dielsiani* and *Zabeliodies*, with some *Sterniani*

<b>Cotoneaster dielsianus</b>	Shrub, 2-4m. Branches erect and spreading.	Deciduous. Coriaceous or subcoriaceous. Ovate or broadly ovate. Apex acute or acuminate.	21-26 (L) x 11-26 (W)	<b>Above:</b> Slightly rugose, grey-green, shiny, pilose. 2-3 veins, lightly impressed. <b>Below:</b> Greyish tomentose.	3-7 flowered. Corolla closed; petals erect-incurved, red with dark red, border off-white. Stamens 20. Filaments dark red or pink; anthers white.	6-9mm. Globose, depressed-globose. or obovoid. Rich red, slightly shiny, pilose. Calyx lobes flat, navel open. <b>Nutlets:</b> 4.	Recorded for the first time in VC67 in 2004 (Durkin). More recently recorded from several sites in Newcastle-upon-Tyne (Common). Highly associated with urban locations. Absent from VC68.
<b>Cotoneaster fangianus</b>	Shrub, 2-2.5m. Branches erect, arched and	Deciduous. Subcoriaceous, ovate or suborbicular. Apex obtuse or	21-35 (L) x 15-28 (W)	<b>Above:</b> slightly rugose, dark green, dull and pilose. Veins: 4-6, deeply impressed. <b>Below:</b>	5-15 flowered. Corolla with large opening. Petals erect. Exceeding sepals by 1mm, pink. Stamens 16-20. Filaments pale pink,	8-9mm. Pendent, obovoid. Crimson to ruby, villous, calyx lobes flat, navel slightly open. <b>Nutlets:</b> 2.	Not yet recorded in the area. Scattered records at a few sites across the UK.

	spreading.	acute.		grayish, densely villous.	anthers white.		
<b>Cotoneaster zabelii</b>	Shrub, 1.5-2m. Branches ascending, spreading.	Deciduous. Chartaceous to subcoriaceous, ovate or elliptic. Apex acute or obtuse.	32-40 (L) x 20-23 (W)	<b>Above:</b> rugose, dark green, dull & sparsely pilose. Veins: 3-5, deeply impressed. <b>Below:</b> tomentose-villous.	3-13 flowered. Corolla open. Petals erect to semi-spreading, exceeding sepals by 1.5mm. White with a few pink dots. Stamens 20. Filaments white, anthers, white.	10-11mm. Pendent, obovoid. Red to ruby, shiny, sparsely villous. Calyx lobes flat, densely villous. Navel slightly open. <b>Nutlets:</b> 2.	Not yet recorded in the area. Scattered records at a few sites across the UK.
<b>Cotoneaster induratus</b>	Shrub, 2-3m. Branches narrowly erect, arched in fruit.	Deciduous. Coriaceous, elliptic to ovate. Apex acute, acuminate, mucronate.	19-27 (L) x 10-14 (W)	<b>Above:</b> rugose, dark green, shiny, pilose-strigose. <b>Veins:</b> 3-4, impressed. <b>Below:</b> grayish tomentose-pilose.	3-5 flowered. Corolla with small opening. Petals erect-incurved, reddish maroon and pink with an off-white border. Stamens 20. Filaments red or pink, anthers white.	9-10mm. Obovoid or globose. Orange-red, shiny, pilose. Calyx lobes suberect. Margin tomentose. <b>Nutlets:</b> 3.	Not yet recorded in the area. Scattered records at a few sites across the UK.
<b>Cotoneaster splendens</b>	Dense shrub, 1-2m. Branches ascending, arched.	Deciduous. Chartaceous, suborbicular to broadly elliptic-ovate. Apex acute.	17-24 (L) x 13-18 (W)	<b>Above:</b> mid-green, slightly shiny, pilose-strigose. Veins: 2-3, lightly impressed. <b>Below:</b> densely pilose.	3-7 flowered. Corolla with small opening. Petals erect-incurved, dark red with pink or off-white border. Stamens 20. Filaments dark red, anthers white.	9-11mm. Depressed globose, orange-red, shiny, sub-glabrous, calyx lobes flat & tomentose. <b>Nutlets:</b> 4, rarely 5.	Not yet recorded in the area. Scattered records at a few sites across the UK.

### Rather uninspiring green cotoneasters with erect branches (growing almost vertical)

Dwarf to large shrubs with stiffly erect, ascending branches. Usually deciduous (Series *Distichi*).

<b>Cotoneaster simonsii</b>	Shrub, 3-4m. Branches stiffly erect.	Deciduous. Chartaceous, or subcoriaceous, broadly elliptic or suborbicular.	19-33 (L) x 13-24 (W)	<b>Above:</b> Mid to dark green, shiny, sparsely strigose, 4-5 veins. <b>Below:</b> Light green, initially strigose.	2-6 flowered. Corolla open. Petals erect-incurved, dark red with white border. Stamens 20. Filaments pink; anthers white.	10-12mm. Cylindrical or obovoid, bright orange to orange-red, shiny, glabrous; calyx lobes erect. <b>Nutlets:</b> 3	One of the commonest shrub-like cotoneasters in our region, growing in a host of typically wooded habitats.
<b>Cotoneaster rotundifolius</b>	Shrub, 2-3m. Branches erect.	Evergreen or semi so. Subcoriaceous. Orbicular or broadly ovate. Apex obtuse or truncate.	9-12 (L) x 8-11 (W)	<b>Above:</b> dark green, shiny, sparsely strigose. Veins: 3-4. <b>Below:</b> mid-green, sparsely strigose.	1 flowered. Corolla with large opening. Petals erect-incurved, dark red with pink border. Stamens 18-20. Filaments dark red, anthers, white.	10-11mm. Obovoid, orange-red to red, shiny, glabrous. Calyx lobes suberect, naval open. <b>Nutlets:</b> 3, rarely 4.	Not yet recorded in the area. Scattered records at a few sites across the UK.

## Tall, tree-like cotoneasters with large or elongated leaves and varying impressed veins

Large shrubs to 18m with long, lanceolate leaves (*Series Frigidii*) or small trees, with long, lanceolate leaves and veins deeply impressed (*Series Salicifoli*).

<b>Cotoneaster salicifolius</b>	Shrub or small tree, 6-8m.	Evergreen, coriaceous.	40-90 (L) x 13-23 (W)	<b>Above:</b> rugose, dark green, shiny, initially sparsely pilose, 7-12 veins deeply impressed. <b>Below:</b> Greyish green, initially densely villous.	10-50 flowered. Buds white. Corolla width 5-6mm, petals white, glabrous. Stamens 20; filaments white; anthers purple.	Globose, 5-7mm, bright red with hint of crimson, sparsely pilose; calyx lobes depressed or flat, navel slightly open. <b>Nutlets:</b> usually 2.	Rather widespread in urban areas of Newcastle (VC67) but scarce elsewhere. Very popular in cultivation, in a range of forms and frequently bird-sown.
<b>Cotoneaster frigidus</b>	Tree, 15-18m.	Deciduous, chartaceous or sub coriaceous, elliptic, obovate or lanceolate.	105-177 (L) x 37-56 (W)	<b>Above:</b> dark green, slightly shiny, glabrescent, 8-12 veins very lightly impressed. <b>Below:</b> greyish-green, tomentose-villous	50-200 flowered, lax. Buds white. Corolla width 6-7mm., petals spreading, white, glabrous. Stamens 20; filaments white; anthers black.	Globose, 4-7mm, red, shiny, sparsely villous, calyx lobes depressed, densely villous, navel slightly open. <b>Nutlets:</b> 2.	Very commonly planted in municipal schemes and occurring as a bird-sown casual in an increasing number of places. Fairly frequent in VC67 but also occurring in VC68.
<b>Cotoneaster x watereri</b>	Large shrub or small tree.	Dull green, slightly rugose.	70-100 (L) x 25-50 (W)	<b>Above:</b> Similar to <i>frigidus</i> , though variable and often with veins more impressed. <b>Below:</b> Initially villous.	Flowers abundant.	Heavy-cropping red or orange-red fruit which are often large (9+mm). <b>Nutlets:</b> 2.	Very common in gardens and frequently bird-sown. Recorded scantily in Newcastle (VC67) but likely under-recorded elsewhere.

## Larger shrubs with thick leaves and heavily impressed veins (Section Densiflori)

Cotoneasters with generally thick, leathery leaves and noticeably impressed veins. Leaves typically elliptic. Tomentose undersides (*Series Pannosi*) or brownish villose-strigose (*Series Salicifoli*).

<b>Cotoneaster lacteus</b>	Shrub or small tree, 4-8m.	Evergreen, coriaceous, obovate, or broadly elliptic.	42-120 (L) x 20-60 (W)	<b>Above:</b> Slightly rugose, dark green, dull, initially sparsely pilose. Veins: 7-9, deeply impressed. <b>Below:</b> Yellowish tomentose- villous.	20-150 flowered. Buds creamy-white, sometimes slightly pinkish. Corolla width 6-8mm, petals spreading, creamy-white, sometimes with hair-tuft at base of upper surface. Stamens 20. Filaments white; anthers purple.	6-7mm. Globose, crimson, sparsely villous; calyx lobes depressed, tomentose. <b>Nutlets:</b> 2.	Recorded for the first time in 2022 at Walker, VC67 (Common, J). Since found at several urban sites in Tyneside, usually on neglected brownfield land. Popular in gardens.
<b>Cotoneaster henryanus</b>	Shrub or small tree, 5-7m.	Evergreen or semievergreen. Subcoriaceous, elliptic-lanceolate.	70-114 (L) x 22-44 (W)	<b>Above:</b> slightly rugose, dark green, dull, initially sparsely brown pilose. Margin slightly recurved. Veins: 7-10 impressed. <b>Below:</b>	10-40 flowered. Buds white. Corolla open, 6-7mm. petals spreading, white, glabrous. Stamens 20. Filaments white, anthers purple.	5-6mm. Obovoid or subglobose. Rich red, villous-strigose, calyx lobes depressed. Style remains at densely villous apex. <b>Nutlets:</b> 2, rarely 1-3.	Not yet recorded in the area. Scattered records at a few sites across the UK.

		Apex acute or acuminate.		initially brownish villous-strigose.			
<b>Cotoneasters with noticeably bullate (blistered) leaves</b>							
Medium shrubs to small trees with subcoriaceous, bullate leaves and 3-12 deeply impressed veins (Series <i>Bullati</i> )							
<b>Cotoneaster boisianus</b>	Shrub, 2-3m.	Deciduous, chartaceous, elliptic	46-60 (L) x 22-32 (W)	<b>Above:</b> slightly bullate, dark green, dull, pilose-strigose. Veins 6-8 impressed. <b>Below:</b> reticulate, yellowish pillose.	9-18 flowered. Corolla closed, petals erect-incurved. Red with a dark red base and pale pink border. Filaments red-pink, anthers white.	9-11mm. Obovoid, orange-red, shiny with a pilose base. Calyx lobes flat and densely pilose. <b>Nutlets:</b> 4-5.	Long known from just a single site in Walbottle (VC67) where it remains to this day. Evidence of spread observed.
<b>Cotoneaster bullatus</b>	Shrub or small tree, 3-5m.	Deciduous. Subcoriaceous, elliptic or ovate.	55-90 (L) x 26-46 (W)	<b>Above:</b> moderately bullate, dark green, shiny. Veins: 6-9 impressed. <b>Below:</b> villous	12-30 flowered, lax. Corolla closed or with small opening. Petals erect-incurved, red and pale pink, border greenish-pink and off-white. Stamens 20. Filaments pale pink, anthers white.	7- 8mm. Globose or obovoid, rich red, slightly shiny. Calyx lobes depressed, subglabrous. <b>Nutlets:</b> usually 5.	Very widespread in urban areas, particularly in scrub, marginal woodland, and semi-shaded environments. Most records come from VC67. Possibly over-recorded due to similarities with <i>C. rehderi</i> .
<b>Cotoneaster rehderi</b>	Shrub or mid-sized tree, 2-5m.	Deciduous. Subcoriaceous, elliptic or obovate.	70-210 (L) x 45-90 (W)	<b>Above:</b> Strongly bullate, mid-green, shiny, initially sparsely pilose. Veins: 8-11. deeply impressed. <b>Below:</b> light green, initially yellowish strigose	10-30 flowered Corolla closed; petals erect-incurved, red or maroon with pink border. Stamens 20; filaments pink; anthers white.	8-11mm. Globose or depressed- globose, cardinal red, shiny, calyx lobes flat, glabrous. <b>Nutlets:</b> 4-5.	Scantly recorded in VC67, usually in wooded areas, scrub, railbanks and marginal areas. Possibly under-recorded in favour of <i>C. bullatus</i> .
<b>Cotoneaster moupinensis</b>	Shrub or small tree, 3-4m.	Deciduous, subcoriaceous, elliptic or broadly ovate. Apex acuminate.	65-130 (L) x 30-48 (W)	<b>Above:</b> bullate, dark green, slightly shiny. Glabrescent with 8-11 veins impressed. <b>Below:</b> light green.	15-50 flowered. Corolla closed. Petals erect-incurved, pink, or red with some purple, border white. Stamens 20, filaments pink, anthers white.	9-10mm. Depressed globose, purple-black, shiny, glabrous. Calyx lobes flat. <b>Nutlets:</b> 5.	Not yet recorded in the area. Scattered records at a few sites across the UK.
<b>Cotoneaster ignescens</b>	Smaller shrub, 2-3m.	Deciduous, subcoriaceous. Broadly elliptic or rhomboid.	38-50 (L) x 23-28 (W).	<b>Above:</b> bullate, dark green, shiny, strigose. Veins 5-7 deeply impressed. <b>Below:</b> densely white pilose-	3-13 flowered. Corolla with small opening. Petals erect-incurved, red-brown, border pink or off-white. Stamens 16-20,	9-10mm. Obovoid or depressed-globose. Orange-red, shiny, sparsely pilose. Calyx lobes flat. <b>Nutlets:</b> 3-4.	Not yet recorded in the area. Scattered records at a few sites across the UK.

				villous.	filaments red/pink, anthers white.		
<b>Shrubby cotoneasters with black fruits and 2-3 nutlets</b>							
Small shrubs to small trees, often multi-stemmed. Leaves acute or acuminate, upper surface sometimes bullate. Fruit mostly black. Nutlets usually 2-3 (Series <i>Acutifolii</i> ).							
<b>Cotoneaster lucidus</b>	Shrub, densely branched, 1.5-2.5m.	Deciduous, chartaceous, elliptic or ovate. Apex acuminate or acute.	30-60 (L) x 17-39 (W)	<b>Above:</b> slightly rugose, dark green, intensely shiny, initially sparsely strigose. Veins 3-5 impressed. <b>Below:</b> mid-green, sparsely pillous-strigose.	5-15 flowered. Corolla open, petals erect, off-white with pink-green tints. Stamens 20, filaments pink, anthers white.	8-10mm. Ellipsoid or globose. Black with blue tint, shiny, glabrous, calyx lobes flat. <b>Nutlets:</b> 2-3.	Not yet recorded in the area. Scattered records at a few sites across the UK.
<b>Cotoneaster pseudoambiguus</b>	Shrub, 3-4m	Deciduous, chartaceous, elliptic or ovate.	34-55 (L) x 24-34 (W)	<b>Above:</b> rugose, dark reddish green, shiny, pillous-strigose. Veins 5-8 lightly impressed. <b>Below:</b> mid-green, shiny, sparsely pilous-strigose.	3-5 flowered. Corolla with small opening. Petals erect-incurved, red with ruby base and white border. Stamens 18-20, filaments pale pink with white apex, anthers white.	9-11mm. Cylindrical, purple-black, villous. Calyx lobes flat, margin forming star over navel. <b>Nutlets:</b> 2.	Not yet recorded in the area. Scattered records at a few sites across the UK.