**Cotoneaster apiculatus - Cranberry Cotoneaster (Rosaceae)**

*Cotoneaster apiculatus* is a low arching to mounding shrub, with glossy small leaves and prominent globular red fruits. Cranberry Cotoneaster is often utilized as an edging or facer shrub or as a tall groundcover.

### FEATURES

#### Form
- low sprawling deciduous shrub or moderately tall woody groundcover
- maturing at 1.5' tall x 5' wide
- arching mound and spreading mound growth habit, with branches sometimes rooting as they touch the ground
- slow growth rate

#### Culture
- full sun to partial shade
- prefers moist, well-drained soils but is very urban stress tolerant, including poor soils, soil pHs, drought, pruning, salt spray, and some soil compaction
- propagated by rooted cuttings or seeds
- Rose Family, with the primary pest problem being spider mites that cause cosmetic leaf damage, and occasionally fireblight disease to the young stems
- mulch to prevent weeds from arising through the center of the shrub, due to the small foliage that allows light penetration to the ground
- abundantly available in containers

#### Foliage
- dark glossy green
- alternate and small, to 0.5" long
- broadly elliptical to rhombic, with an acute tip and an undulating leaf margin
- spider mite cosmetic leaf damage, especially during hot and dry summers, is common in this species
- autumn color is a mixture of green, yellow, orange, red, and wine, slowly absicig

**Flowers**
- pink buds opening to white-pink flowers tightly pressed to the stems, in late May and early June
- many very small clustered flowers
- effective as a whole plant in flower, especially up-close, but not overwhelming

**Fruits**
- red, maturing in late Aug. and a very effective contrast in late summer and early autumn while the foliage is still a glossy dark green
- 0.25" diameter and persistent into early winter
- effective display when in mass plantings

#### Twigs
- red-purple with persistent pubescence
- older stems olive-brown and lenticeled
- branches continuously arching with numerous side branchlets
- buds very small

#### Trunk
- not applicable

### USAGE

#### Function
- shrub or groundcover effective as an edging, facer, embankment, mass planting, low barrier, foundation, wall, or raised planter (short cascading effect) woody plant

#### Texture
- fine texture in foliage but medium when bare
- open density in foliage and when bare

#### Assets
- lustrous dark green foliage
- arching branches
- red cranberry-like fruits (hence the common name) that are dense and persistent into early winter
- salt spray tolerant

#### Liabilities
- garbage and dead leaf collector because of low, arching, many-stemmed profile
- slow growth
- spider mites are a frequent foliage cosmetic problem, especially when the plant is under heat and drought stress in summer

#### Habitat
- Zones 5 to 7
- Native to Western China

### SELECTIONS

#### Alternates
- other low-profile groundcover shrubs, especially those with arching stems, attractive foliage, and/or showy fruits (Arctostaphylos uva-ursi, Erica, Juniperus conferta, Juniperus horizontalis, Microbiota decussata, Mitchellia repens, etc.)

#### Cultivars – Variants – Related species
- *Cotoneaster adpressus* 'Little Gem' (also known as *Cotoneaster apiculatus* 'Tom Thumb'), with its species or hybrid parentage sometimes placed under *Cotoneaster adpressus* or *Cotoneaster horizontalis* - a truly compact form, with miniature crinkled leaves and very thin stems that radiate from the center of the shrub, to 1' tall x 2' wide, with very slow growth and essentially no flowers nor fruits; attractive as a dwarf specimen shrub, but very prone to webworm
- pendulous, arching, or weeping woody plants are sometimes grafted onto vertical stems of the same genus, for a more dramatic impact, and Cranberry Cotoneaster is an example of this practice, sometimes sold on 1.5-5' "standards"