



Ymddiriedolaeth Natur
Gogledd Cymru
North Wales
Wildlife Trust



PLANT PROFILE

Wall cotoneaster

INVASIVE

FACTS

ID

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ACTION**

TIPS

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Species description

Scientific name:

Cotoneaster horizontalis

Native to:

East Asia

Cronfa
Treftadaeth
Heritage
Fund



Mewn Partneriaeth â
Llywodraeth Cymru
In Partnership with
Welsh Government

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Interesting facts

Impacts:

Spreads over wide areas and can outcompete native species. It is a particular problem on limestone grassland in North Wales where it outcompetes native plants including the endemic *Cotoneaster cambricus*, that only grows on the Great Orme. It can also hybridise with other cotoneaster plants thereby altering plant characteristics.



Habitat:

Rocky grassland, railway banks, garden walls, cliffs, limestone grassland, quarries, chalk pits, pavements and walls.



A deciduous shrub, low-growing and spreading, grows up to 90cm tall and 1.5m wide. Pink-tinged white flowers in late spring are followed by red berries. Wall cotoneaster is a well-known garden escaper. It was introduced to Britain around 1880 but there is uncertainty around when it was first recorded in the wild.



How it spreads:

Spreads by birds eating the berries and depositing seeds widely through their droppings.

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Key identification features

Flat, herringbone patterned branches.



Leaves turn red
in autumn.



Red berries from late
summer through winter.



Bare branches in winter.

Small glossy dark
green leaves.

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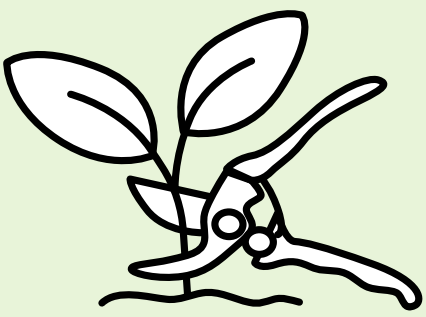
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Take action

Help **stop** the **spread!**



Remove the plant by digging, removing all of the roots, taking care to remove all soil with berries.



Remove seedlings by hand-pulling or digging.

Do not compost berries at home, use council garden waste facilities instead.

Explore our tips for alternative plant ideas.



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Handy tips

Legislation

Wall cotoneaster is listed as an invasive species on [Schedule 9](#) of the [Wildlife and Countryside Act \(1981\)](#).

It is an offence to plant or cause to grow in the wild.

Gardeners should take measures to help stop the spread from their gardens into the wild.

Similar species:

Not to be confused with Firethorn (*Pyracantha coccinea*).



Holly

Alternative plant ideas

Native

Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*).

Non-native

Japanese quince (*Chaenomeles japonica*).



Japanese quince

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