Cotoneaster
(*Cotoneaster species*)
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**Summary:**
- Foliage: Deciduous broadleaf (some species are evergreen)
- Height: 12 inches to 6 feet
- Spread: 2 to 8 feet
- Shape: Spreading or upright
  - Leaves are small and glossy green. Showy small, white/pink, spring flowers are followed by red or black fruit which cover branches in the fall. The fruit display can be quite showy.

**Plant Needs:**
- Zone: 5 to 7
- Light: Partial shade to full sun
- Moisture: Wet, moist, or dry
- Soil Type: Sandy, loam, or clay
- pH Range: 3.7 to 7.0

**Functions:**
Suggested uses for this plant include border, hedge, massing, specimen plant, & ground cover.

**Planting Notes:**
Due to sparse root system, plant container grown plants or those that have balled and burlapped roots. Plant in rich, moist, well-drained soil if possible. Salt tolerant.

**Care:**
Control may be needed in some years for lacebugs, mites, scale insects, and fire blight. Wood damaged by fire blight should be pruned and destroyed.

**Problems:**
Fire blight can be severe in some areas. Susceptible to several insects, including lacebugs, mites, and scale insects.

**Alternatives:**
Consult local sources, including historic or public gardens and arboreta, regarding cultivars and related species that grow well in your area.

- Related species:
  - *C. adpressus* `Praecox` (Creeping Cotoneaster) is a low ground cover 6 inches high. Small round green leaves turn red in fall and small red fruit persist into winter.
  - *C. dammeri* `Coral Beauty` (Bearberry Cotoneaster) is a low-growing (2 feet tall; 6 feet wide) evergreen form.
  - *C. divaricatus* (Spreading Cotoneaster) is a deciduous shrub with arching, spreading branches. Red berries cover the branches during early fall (6 feet high; 8 feet wide).
  - *C. horizontalis* (Rock Cotoneaster) has low, flat, horizontal branches which create a unique effect. Excellent on a bank or trailing over a wall (3 feet by 5 feet).

**Comments:**
The *Cotoneaster* genus includes both deciduous and evergreen species. There is generally a species available to fit any need, from a low ground cover to an upright screen. You will need to determine if a particular species is cold hardy in your area. The low-growing forms have a somewhat wild look to them due to the branching pattern. Branches will collect dead leaves in the winter.

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