PLANT FACT SHEET

Cotoneaster microphyllus Wall. ex Lindl.

GENUS *Cotoneaster* **FAMILY** Rosaceae

COMMON NAMES Rockspray cotoneaster

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The ripe fruits are eaten raw and are watery in taste.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen shrub. It has many branches. It is compact with many twigs. It often lies along the ground. It often forms a mound 1 m high. The leaves have short stalks. The leaves are 0.3-1.5 cm long by 0.2-0.5 cm wide. They are oval and leathery. They are glossy dark green above. The flowers occur singly. They are white and in the axils of leaves. The fruit is round and scarlet when ripe.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. They are very frost hardy. It needs an exposed position with full sun. In Nepal they grow between 1300-3500 m altitude. In Uttar Pradesh in India they grow between 2000-4000 m altitude. It is best in a light to medium well-drained soil. It suits hardiness zones 5-10. In Sichuan and Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. It can be pruned. It can also be grown by cuttings.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In NW Pakistan fruit are available in May.

NOTES

There are more than 200 Cotoneaster species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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