

MHBS THE TWIG

COTONEASTER LESSON AND WORKSHOP WITH PAULINE MUTH

Feb. 26 at noon

Learn how to use this versatile species for bonsai and, if you wish participate in a shohin sized Cotoneaster *thymifolia* workshop after the lesson. The cost of the material is \$45. Please call or email

Pauline to reserve a place. For the workshop, bring tools and wire.

Bring something to share for lunch before the meeting.



Lunch at noon. Followed by short meeting and then the program. Club will meet at pfm bonsai 7 Western Avenue, West Charlton NY 12010

Many thanks to Patrick “Jake” De Silva for rescuing our program on Japanese Culture in January.

MHBS mourns the passing of Alex Zimmerman in January. Our prayers and thought go out to Inge, his family and friends.



Program 2017

FEBRUARY 26 SHOHIN COTONEASTER LESSON AND WORKSHOP WITH PAULINE MUTH



MARCH 26 COLIN LEWIS AND MALIEA CHIEM ON LARCH. KRIS SPRINGER TO BRING LARCH AND EASTER WHITE CEDARS FOR SALE ON SATURDAY.

APRIL 7- 9 MABS IN CONNECTICUT:
AKIO KONDO, WILL BADDELEY
BOON MARAKITIVIPART, YOUNG CHOE

MAY 13-14 MAURO STEMBERGER

JUNE 25 ACCENTS FOR BONSAI

JULY 26 - 27 +MARC ARPAG CONTINUES WORK ON EASTERN WHITE CEDAR

AUGUST 24 PICNIC, POT EXCHANGE & CLUB MEMBER DISPLAYS CRITIQUE

SEPTEMBER 23-24 CLUB SHOW

OCTOBER 29 BONSAI DISPLAY WITH TOM & SANDY

NOVEMBER 19 PINES WITH DAVE HODGETTS

DECEMBER 2 CLUB DINNER AND AUCTION



WE



**OUR OFFICERS
THANKS FOR ALL YOUR WORK**

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A Bonsai Close Up on Cotoneaster for Bonsai by Pauline F. Muth



Cotoneaster (/kə'toʊni:æstər) is a large genus of over 50 species flowering plants belonging to the Rose family. The name derives from *cotoneum* for quince and *aster* meaning inferior. It has both spreading and upright forms. Varying species are hardy from zone 4 to zone 7. Care must be taken to check on the specific hardiness of the species being used. The prostrate species are mostly alpine plants growing at high altitude in the Himalayas, while the larger species occur in scrub and woodland gaps at lower altitudes.

They are capable of developing interesting gnarled trunks with time. When looking for a specimen in nurseries, look for the trunk as new branches readily develop. Since they do not increase in girth well in potted culture, to develop girth plant in the ground for a few years. Not all species of cotoneaster have good growth habits for bonsai, so select carefully. The smaller leaved varieties are excellent for shohin sized bonsai.



Habit

The shoots are dimorphic, with long shoots producing structural branch growth, and short shoots bearing the flowers; this pattern often developing a 'herringbone' form of branching. The leaves are arranged alternately long, ovate to lanceolate, entire; both evergreen and deciduous species occur. The flowers are produced in late spring through early summer, solitary or in corymbs of up to 100 together. The flower is either fully open or has its five petals half open. They may be any shade from white through creamy white to light pink to dark pink to almost red. The fruit is a small pome 0.20–0.47 inches in diameter,

pink or bright red, orange or even maroon or black when mature, containing one to three (rarely up to five) seeds. The fruit is in perfect proportion to the foliage for bonsai. Fruit on some species stays on until the following year.



Growing Conditions

Grow in full sun. Use a good draining growing medium as the roots do not tolerate wet conditions. Use a balanced fertilizer and add in a good iron source for lush green leaves.



Pruning and styling

Although early spring is the best time for the drastic pruning that may be done on cotoneaster, the wonder of the species is that you can do major pruning any time of year. Layer development is achieved by trimming each new growth branch to two leaves just above the internode. This species grows multiple trunks so look carefully to find single or perhaps dual trunks. The plant puts out suckers, cut these off as soon as they appear to direct all the energy of the plant into the bonsai.

Growing Medium and Repotting

Grown in a mixture that will retain moisture without being wet or soggy. The best medium has a good organic portion. It requires excellent drainage. Although mature plants can tolerate drought in plantings, it is not wise to test this in bonsai potted culture.

Repot each year. Do not completely bare root the plant. Remove soil from one third to one half of the soil mass at each repotting.

Fertilize regularly with your favorite type. Adding iron to the mix assures a good green color. Super phosphate added each month increases flowering and fruit.

Disease and pests

Susceptible to fireblight, leaf spot and canker. Keep designs open to allow air to flow through. Remove dead leaves immediately. Watch for red spider mites by shaking the branches over a sheet of white paper.

INFORMATION from varying notes taken over the years, the internet and filtered through experience. Photographs from the internet.

