



## Cotoneaster - Cotoneaster



The Cotoneaster can be spotted in the Autumn when it bears red berries.

Cotoneaster is a shrub in the Rose family. There are two small Cotoneaster bushes in Selsdon Wood. Both were first spotted in 2020 but as they were fairly well established they must have been there for some years. Perhaps this was the first year they bore berries which is what drew attention to them. The two seem to be different species of Cotoneaster.

Cotoneaster is not a native British plant so these must be garden escapees - perhaps from berries brought in by birds or seeds in the bird droppings. If so it is likely that there will be more plants elsewhere in the wood.



The larger of the two (shown left) is in Vale Border in the north easterly corner of Field 2 (Vale Meadow). It is Milkflower Cotoneaster, *Cotoniaster coriaceus*. It is growing at the base of the hedgerow. It has matt leaves and is resplendent with many red berries.

The other specimen is in the unnamed path which runs up the northern border of the wood parallel to The Bridle Way. That is Franchet's Cotoneaster, *Cotoneaster franchetii*. The leaves can be seen to be more glossy than those of the Milkflower Cotoneaster. In 2020 this plant bore fewer berries.

Both photographs showing the plants with berries were taken in November 2020.

The flowers blooming in late spring, are attractive to insects. More to come when we have photos in spring 2021.

Take a winter walk to look for both known Cotoneaster plants. Can you find any others?

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