Plant Release Bulletin #1

Hesse Cotoneaster
Cotoneaster ‘Hessei’
A hardy, disease-resistant, hybrid cultivar of a popular ground cover shrub.

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Plant Introduction Program...
Bringing Better Plants to the Landscape
Hesse Cotoneaster
Cotoneaster ‘Hessei’
A hardy, disease-resistant, hybrid cultivar of a popular ground cover shrub.

Botanical Name
Cotoneaster ‘Hessei’

Family
Rosaceae

Common Name
Hesse Cotoneaster

Origin
A cultivar of uncertain parental origin (probably C. horizontalis × C. adpressus var. praecox) developed by H.A. Hesse of Weener, Germany, in the 1930s. The plant was introduced to the Chicagoland area by The Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Illinois, in the 1950s. Cotoneaster ‘Hessei’ is a recommended cultivar being promoted by Chicagoland Grows®.

Hardiness
U.S.D.A. Zone 4

Growth Rate
Slow to medium

General Description
Deciduous shrub 12” to 18” tall with irregularly bowed branches that root at the soil line. Foliage is dark, glossy green throughout the growing season, turning rich burgundy in fall. Single, reddish-pink flowers appear in spring, followed by bright red fruits that often persist into early winter.

Culture
Best transplanted from a container. Prefers moist, well-drained soils but adapts easily to a broad spectrum of soil types. Not tolerant of extremely wet conditions. Ideal exposures are full sun or light shade.

Pest and Disease Resistance
Has shown excellent resistance to spider mite and fireblight in field trials.

Landscape Value
Excellent in the shrub border, for massing as a ground cover, or as an accent plant around retaining walls or in the rock garden. Diminutive habit and delicate texture make this cultivar especially useful in small garden areas.

Propagation
Best from softwood cuttings taken in late June to mid-July, 3” to 4” in length and treated with 2500 P.P.M. IBA. Cuttings should be started in 50/50 peat-perlite mix or sandbeds, and placed under mist. Rooting occurs in 8-12 weeks.

Sales Potential
Excellent as a one- or two-gallon container plant from early spring through fall. Hardiness as well as disease and pest resistance make this cultivar one of the finest shrub/ground cover plants for Midwest landscapes.