

# *Berberis (Mahonia) aquifolium 'compacta'* Creeping Mahonia, Creeping Barberry



Photographs courtesy of Santa Barbara Botanic Garden

LOW SHRUB, GROUNDCOVER - evergreen.

1 - 2' high, 3'+ spread. Underground stems.

Stiff, holly-like leaves; dark, glossy green, purplish red in the fall.

Small yellow flowers - April to June.

Blue-black berries.

Native habitat: yellow pine forest - dry open woods below 7000'  
(San Jacinto, Sierras, North Coast Ranges).

Part shade to full shade. Frost resistant.

Some water (2 - 4 x/month) but can tolerate dry conditions.

Foliage attractive all year. Low maintenance. Can spread over large area as  
sprawling groundcover. Slow to establish, then tough and vigorous.

Berries provide food for birds.

