

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

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.



**USE AS A GUIDE ONLY —  
GROWTH CHARACTERISTICS  
MAY DIFFER FOR A VARIANT.**

Photographs courtesy of San Diego  
Natural History Museum