



# How to draw a Great Orme Berry

A step-by-step instruction by Ivan Dmitriev

# Step 1

Before you start drawing, browse the Internet for pictures of a wild cotoneaster, which is better known as a Great Orme Berry. There are not many because the species is critically endangered and the locations of individual plants are kept confidential.

Pick a couple of images which you will use later and thoroughly examine them. Pay attention to the colours and shapes of the different parts of the plant.

Here are the images I have chosen.



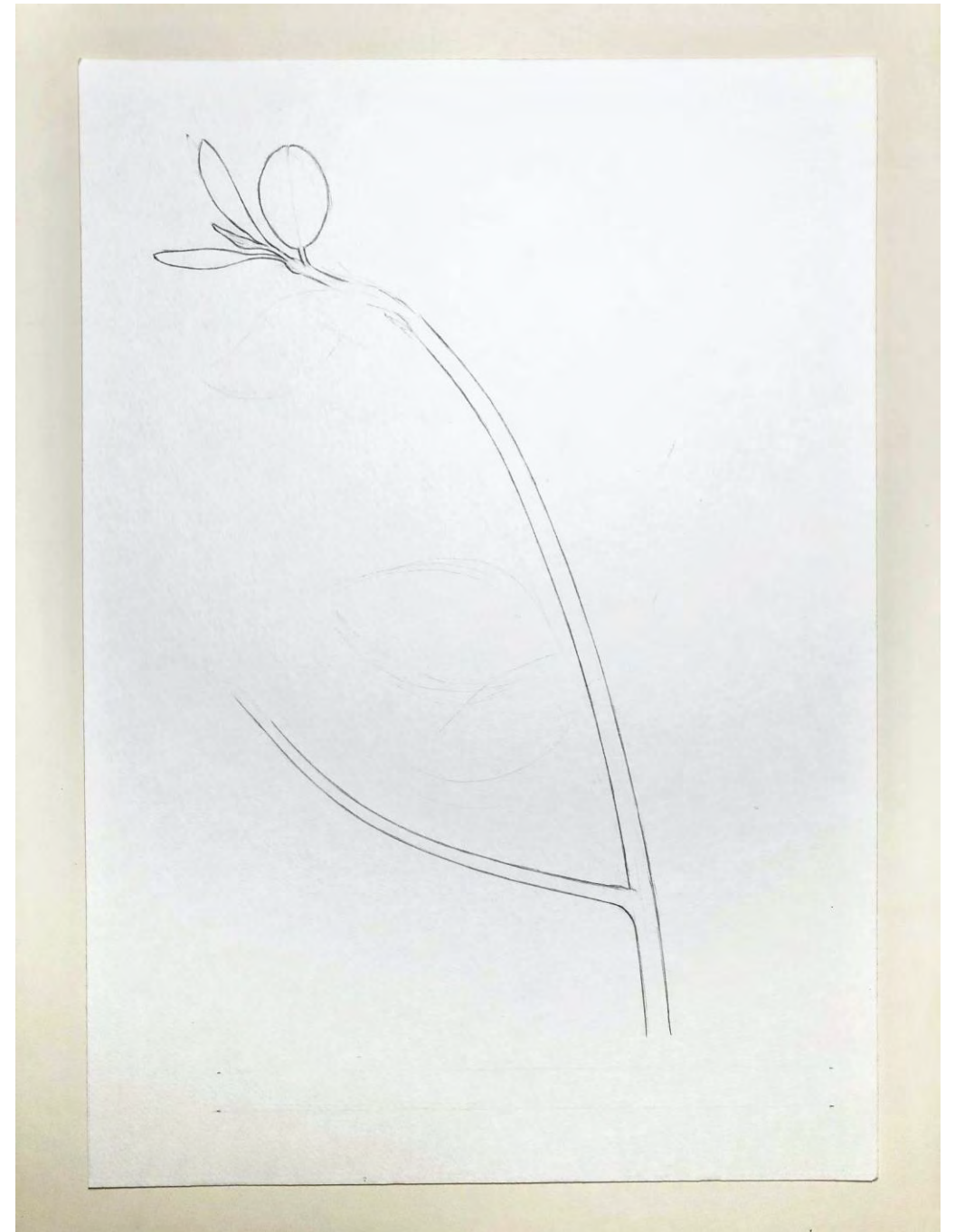


## Step 2

After getting a precise idea of how a Great Orme Berry looks, you can start drawing. Leave some space at the bottom of your piece for the plant's name. Start outlining the primary branch with a pencil. I usually use either HB or B1. Sketch lightly so that you can easily erase a line if you make a mistake.

Great Orme Berry has relatively big leaves, so I would suggest drawing only one branch otherwise your illustration will be too crowded.

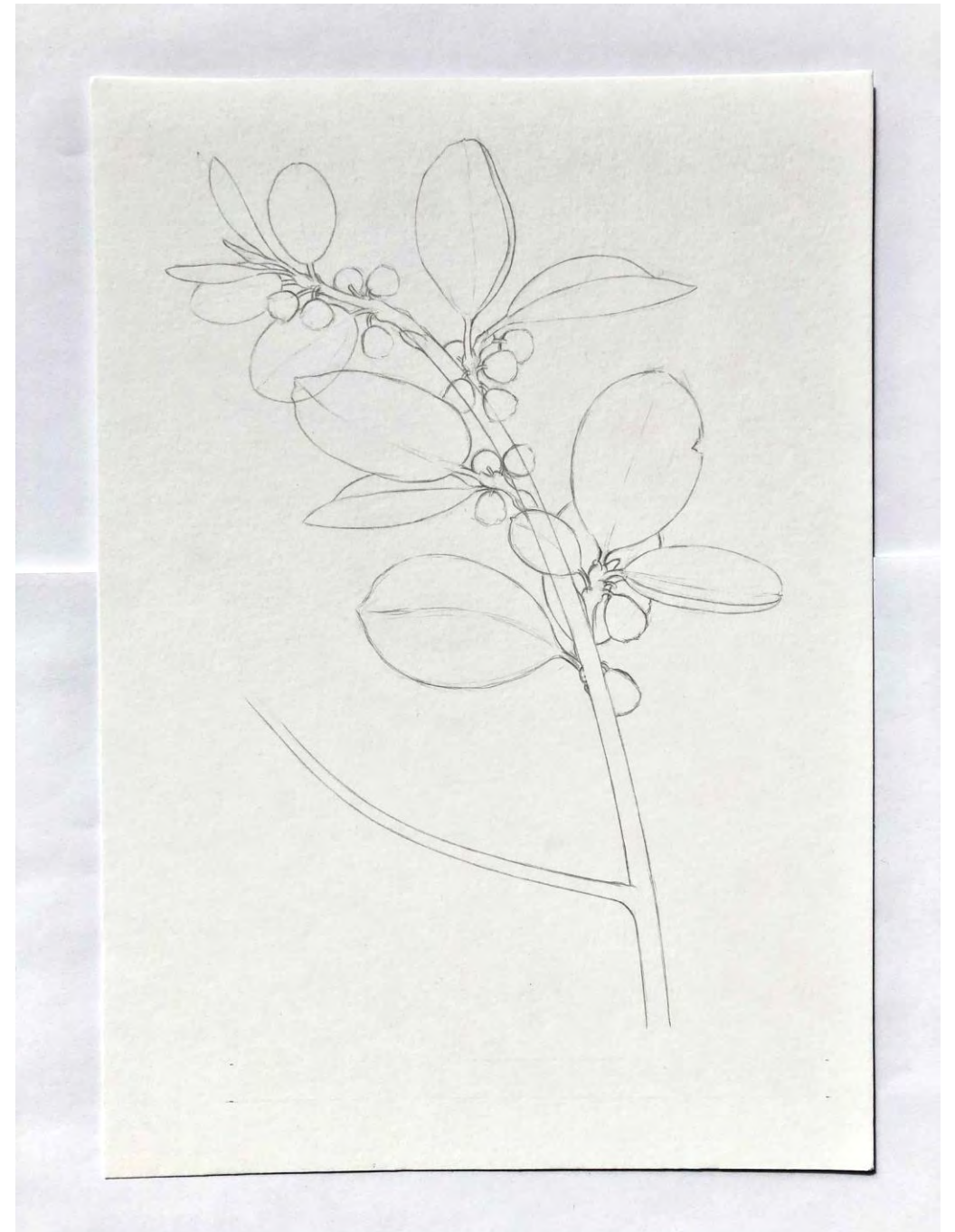
Although the branches are fairly straight try to capture the plant's movement by using soft curves and avoiding straight lines.



## Step 3

Start adding leaves and berries. Do not forget to refer to those images that you have picked earlier to keep on track and stay true to nature. Outline leaves of different sizes to make your plant look more realistic. The smaller leaves will appear mainly at the top of the plant because they are a less mature cluster.

Notice: Great Orme Berry has clusters of leaves and berries growing out together from each **node** (a point of attachment of a leaf or a twig on the stem). There are no 'loners'.



## Step 4

When drawing the leaves, try to make sure they are not too symmetrical and all facing forwards, or they will look artificial. To give an impression of depth, make sure that your drawing **perspective** (a technique used in art and design to represent three-dimensional images on a two-dimensional picture plane) is consistent and that some leaves are in front of and behind the primary twig.

My illustration will have berries in three different growth stages: ripe, fully formed but not yet ripe, and small underdeveloped ones. Even though in nature only one or two stages could be seen on a twig simultaneously, botanical illustration allows us to show them all. You can also draw some flowers. If you do, place them on the very top of your twig.





## Step 5

Make any changes and adjustments to your pencil drawing before adding colour. Make sure you are satisfied with how your plant looks. It will be difficult to correct its structure and shape after this step.

Erase the darker layer of your pencil drawn plant with a soft eraser leaving only slightly visible line contours for tracing. Using a green pencil for the leaves, yellow and red for the berries and brown for the branches, outline your Great Orme Berry again.

**Notice:** Associating the shape of a leaf or berry with something familiar to you makes it easier to draw. On this plant most of the leaves are tear shaped with a line down the center. The berries are pear shaped.



## Step 6

After outlining the whole plant in colour, fill in the front side (upper surface) of the leaves with the same green colour you used to outline the leaf. Leave the backside of your leaves untouched. Starting from where the leaf comes out of the node, apply all the strokes diagonally from the **midribs** (the central veins in the middle of each leaf you made previously) to the edges of the leaves. Do not press too hard as it is only the first layer which will be covered by other shades of green later.

**TIP:** Place a piece of paper under your hand when working with coloured pencils so you do not smudge the pencil while you are drawing.





## Step 7

Now you can start adding darker shades of green to your leaves. The edges and thin stripes of surface along the midribs should remain light in colour to create a 3D-effect. Again, apply all the strokes diagonally so your leaves look realistic. Outline the midribs with a sharp dark green pencil. Try to make the line as thin as possible so that your lighter midrib colour remains.

TIP: To make the **colour gradient** (or the transition between light and dark colours) smoother, and blend all the shades well, I use a soft layer of the lighter green colour I outlined the leaf with.





## Step 8

Fill in all the leaves the same way. Even the smallest leaves should be relatively dark. This is a defining feature of the Great Orme Berry.

TIP: You can always slightly change the **tone** (lightness or darkness of a colour) of the leaves, as well as other parts of the plant, by adding another thin layer of colour later. However, it is easier to darken the tone than to make it lighter, so do not over darken it straight away.



## Step 9

Now start filling the backside of your leaves. The back of the leaves are much lighter and brighter in colour. I did not have a very light green colour, so I used a soft white pencil blended with a light green pencil to get the tone I needed. To make the colour a little faded and less vibrant I have also used a grey pencil. The grey is not visible.

Outline these leaves again with a darker shade of green and do not forget about the midrib line. This gives the leaf a sharp look.





## Step 10

After you finish colouring the leaves, start filling in the berries. Make the big ripe berries lower on the plant wholly red, the middle berries yellow with orange shades, and the ones on top of the plant half green/ half yellow. The berries are darker at the top and bottom.

To create a round berry, choose three shades of red. Dark red, medium red, and your darkest pink (use dark brown pencil for shading if you do not have other colours). Colour the whole berry with medium red. Add your darkest colour at the top and bottom of the berry following the rounded shape of the berry itself. Blend the two shades from the center of the berry out with your lightest colour.



## Step 11

Advanced Tip: To make the berries look more interesting, you can add some deep wrinkles. Start at the bottom center of the berry and sketch a line following the shape of the berry almost to the top. Round the lines at the bottom of the wrinkle with your dark colour. Blend your colours so that the darkest red is on the outside of your wrinkle and the lightest is at the center.





## Step 12

Fill in the twigs with dark brown at the bottom and green at the top. Blend the dark brown with the green so that the transition looks natural.

Turn again to the images from Step 1 and check to make sure that your colours are similar. Make your final corrections where needed.

Write down the name of the plant underneath it using a sharp black pencil, an ink pen, or a fineliner.

Sign your piece.

Well done! You've completed your second drawing.



## References (in order of appearance):

1. <https://www.llandudno-what.com/articles/news/national-trust-5-rare-great-orme-plants-r68/>
2. <https://globaltrees.org/threatened-trees/trees/wild-cotoneaster/>