

WACD PLANT MATERIALS CENTER

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Golden Currant (*Ribes aureum*)

Distribution

Golden Currant is widely distributed through western North America from British Columbia east to Saskatchewan, south to western Nebraska, Colorado, and northwestern Texas, west to California, and north to the eastern slopes of the Cascade Range.

Growth Habit

Golden Currant grows as a deciduous, multi-stemmed shrub, reaching 6' tall and spreading 4' to 6' wide. It can form from suckers as well as seed. Its semi-glassy lobed light green leaves show lovely red foliage in the fall. Yellow fragrant blowers transform into spherical berries of many colors including; yellow, orange, red or dark purple.

Adaptability

Golden Currant can be found growing in a variety of sites. It occurs from damp brushy sites to exposed rocky hill sides. It generally grows best with good sun light.

Comments

- Its qualities as an ornamental are all too obvious in April when it is in bloom. Established plants are covered with bright yellow flowers. Some flowers will have a slight reddish or purplish tinge. It also has attractive yellowish-green foliage that turns bright yellow in the fall.
- Golden Currant also has many attributes as a conservation species. The plant produces small berries that attract many species of birds and small mammals.
- The berries are also considered to be edible for people, but as with many members of this genus, the berries may prove to be quite tart.
- Golden Currant is also a good soil stabilizer for both upland sites and damp bottom land areas.

