Golden or Clove Currant
Golden or Clove Currant (Ribes odoratum)

General Description
A small shrub native to western United States. Similar to golden currant (R. aureum). Well adapted to growing conditions in the north. Fragrant, yellow, clove-scented flowers.

Leaves and Buds
Bud Arrangement - Alternate.
Bud Color - Creamy-tan, imbricate, stalked.
Bud Size - 1/4 inch.
Leaf Type and Shape - Simple, 3 to 5 lobed leaf.
Leaf Margins - Obtuse or acute with dentate lobes.
Leaf Surface - Smooth, glabrate below.
Leaf Length - 1½ to 2 inches.
Leaf Width - 1 to 1½ inches.
Leaf Color - Light green; yellow fall color.

Flowers and Fruits
Flower Type - Polygam-dioecious, borne in racemes.
Flower Color - Golden-yellow.
Fruit Type - Berry, if present.
Fruit Color - Black or purplish-brown.

Form
Growth Habit - Upright spreading, becomes leggy.
Texture - Fine, summer; medium-fine, winter.
Crown Height - 3 to 6 feet.
Crown Width - 3 to 6 feet.
Bark Color - Light to chestnut brown.
Root System - Medium in spread.

Environmental Requirements
Soils
Soil Texture - Adapted to a variety of soils, tolerant of saline soils.
Soil pH - 5.5 to 8.0.
Windbreak Suitability Group - 1, 1K, 3, 4, 4C, 5, 8, 9C, 9L.

Cold Hardiness
USDA Zone 2.

Water
Currants are fairly drought tolerant.

Light
Full sun to partial shade.

Uses
Conservation/Windbreaks
Small to medium shrub for farmstead windbreaks and riparian plantings.

Wildlife
Preferred roosting, loafing, or nesting cover for songbirds. Berries edible if present. Preferred browse for mule deer. Not preferred by white tail deer.

Agroforestry Products
Food - Native Americans ate the fruit raw and used it in making pemmican. Currently used fresh and for jelly and jam.
Medicinal - Some Ribes species have been used as cures for inflammation.

Urban/Recreational
Border, hedge, and mass plantings.

Cultivated Varieties
None.

Related Species
Alpine Currant (Ribes alpinum)
Golden Currant (R. aureum)

Pests
Premature defoliation is a common problem due to imported currant worm, anthracnose or leafspots. Extracts of some Ribes species are toxic to various insect pests.