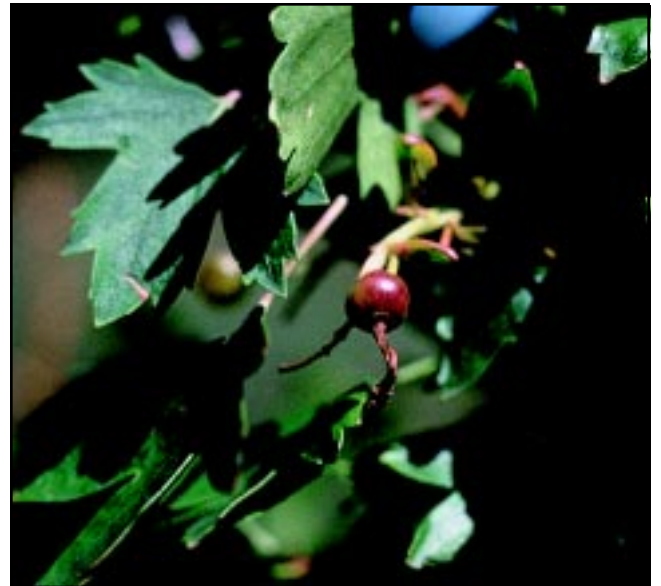


Golden or Clove Currant



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 - Polygamo-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.