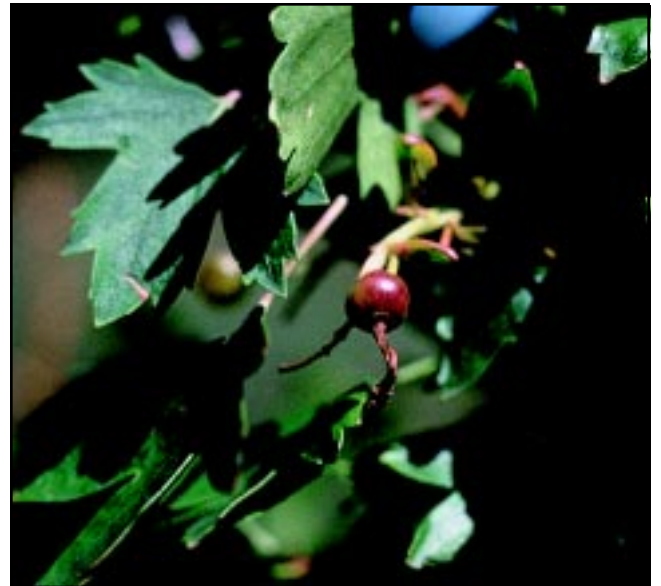


# Golden or Clove Currant



# 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.