

# virginia home food production



## CURRENTS AND GOOSEBERRIES

DEPARTMENT OF HORTICULTURE

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426-440

### ENVIRONMENTAL PREFERENCES

LIGHT: full sun, will tolerate  
light shade

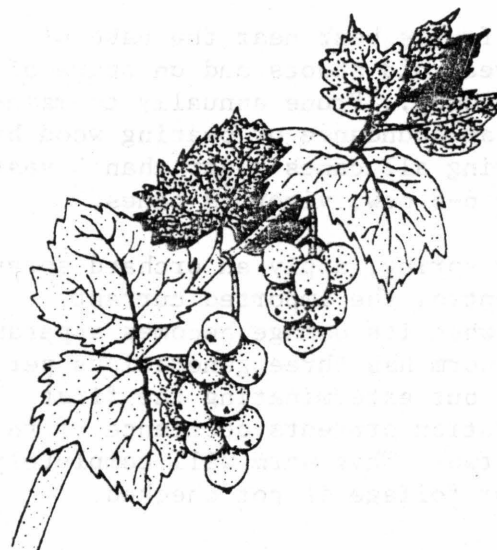
SOIL: cool, well-drained deep  
clay loam

FERTILITY: rich

pH: 6.0 - 8.0

TEMPERATURE: cool

MOISTURE: average



### CULTURE

PLANTING: fall planting is  
best since the buds  
are usually out be-  
fore the ground is  
ready for spring  
planting

SPACING: 4' x 8'

HARDINESS: very hardy perennial

FERTILIZER: heavy feeder,  
continuous abundance of manure  
or other organic material,  
(5-10-5) sidedress when  
applying manure in the spring

### CULTURAL PRACTICES:

Both currants and gooseberries are easy-to-grow, produce abundantly, and do well in cool, northern climates where summers are not too hot and dry. They are an alternate host to White Pine Buster Rust, and because of this, some states and counties totally ban the planting of these two fruits. Other areas require a 900-foot or more planting distance from any White Pines. Currently, 33 counties in Virginia ban any planting. After planting, water heavily 2-3 times a week for several weeks. Apply wood mulch and/or

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manure annually to hill the plants in and to supply needed nutrients. If manure is not available, apply 8 oz. of nitrate of soda per plant in the early spring before bud break.

Space plants according to soil fertility. Plants in rich soils need more room than those in poor soils.

Both fruits bear near the base of one-year old shoots and on spurs of older wood. Prune annually to maintain an abundance of bearing wood by removing all canes older than 3 years. Leave 6-8 new, vigorous canes.

Every spring, apply an orchard spray to control the imported currant worm when its damage becomes apparant. This worm has three generations per year, but exterminating the first generation prevents occurrence of the next two. This worm will completely devour foliage if not checked.

### COMMON PROBLEMS

DISEASES: powdery mildew, anthracnose, leaf spot.

INSECTS: imported currant worm, San Jose scale, currant borers, aphids

OTHER: Birds

### NUTRITIONAL VALUE

rich in vitamin C

### HARVESTING AND STORAGE

APPROXIMATE YIELDS: 1 currant plant will yield 1 bushel or more each year. Gooseberries bear even more.

AMOUNT TO RAISE PER PERSON: 1 plant each

HARVEST: When soft, juicy, attained full color and taste. Currants and gooseberries can be left on the bush several weeks after they are ready for use.

STORAGE: will not last more than a few days in the refrigerator.

PRESERVATION: can, freeze, wine, preserves

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