

# Currants

## *Planting & Growing Guide*

### Cultural Requirements

Currants are easy to grow and can tolerate a wide range of soils. Soil must be well-drained and relatively free of salts. Keep soil constantly moist but do not allow it to become too soggy. Currants are long-lived plants and very winter hardy but do not like hot summers. If your summer temperatures are in excess of 90°F, plant on the north side of your house or building. Planting on the north side will also protect your currants from a late spring frost, by delaying bloom time.

### Heeling In

When your nursery stock arrives, it is best to plant them right away. If you cannot plant immediately (within a week of delivery), remove plastic bags that cover and keep the roots moist during shipment, and store them in a cool moist place like a root cellar or basement, making sure the roots stay moist and do not freeze. Or, you can “heel in” the plants to protect them. To heel in bare root plants outside, pick a location that is shielded from wind. Dig a trench with one side sloping and the other side vertically straight. Place the plants so that the roots are pointed toward the vertical side and the trunks/stems are supported by the sloping side. Cover the roots with soil and tamp it down to avoid air pockets. Heeling in should protect your plants until you are ready to plant. If you are unable to heel them in outside due to extremely cold temperatures, you can place the plants in a box with moist sawdust (do not, however, use cedar sawdust which is combustible) or dirt (by far the best and safest medium) covering the roots to hold them over. If using sawdust, be sure to carefully and regularly monitor the temperature to prevent “cooking” the roots if the sawdust starts to compost. The best preventative measure is to regularly water and aerate the pile without allowing the temperature to rise.

### Fertility

Currants love soil that is high in organic matter. If you have conducted a soil analysis, up to 5% organic matter is ideal. If you have low organic matter, add high-quality compost. Once the currants are planted, mulch the watering zone with several inches of compost each year.

Add a well-balanced organic fertilizer in the Spring if your soil lacks nutrients. Do not over apply nitrogen as this will cause excess vegetative growth and make the plant susceptible to mildew and insects. Never apply nitrogen after fruit has set.

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### Planting & Growing Instructions

Currants can be planted in rows or trained as a simple espalier. If you choose to grow these as bushes, plant shorter cultivars, at least 3 feet apart in a row or 3 feet apart from neighboring plants. Plant further apart if you have selected larger cultivars. Space multiple rows 7 or more feet apart. Set plants at least an inch deeper than they were grown in the nursery. Shallow plants are prone to drying out so err on the deepside. At planting time, cut young single-stemmed plants down to three or four buds, but no more. If your plant has more than one stem, cut off all but the healthiest looking one. The above ground portion of the plant must be balanced with the root system or the plant will suffer. Drip irrigation works best as it keeps the water off of the leaves and fruit, preventing the spread of fungal diseases.

For information about pruning, see *Fruits and Berries for the Home Garden*, by Lewis Hill, offered in the book section of the Main Peaceful Valley Farm Supply catalog.

### Fruit Production

Currants are ready to harvest in early to mid-summer, late June to mid July, for many cultivars in most of North America. For fresh consumption, allow berries to fully ripen on the plant.

### Dormant Nursery Stock Limited Replacement Guarantee

We guarantee that our product(s) will arrive in good, viable condition. If your dormant bare-root stock (including potted fig and pomegranate), kiwi, grape, artichoke, asparagus, horseradish, rhubarb, or (straw/rasp/black/blue/boysen)berry does not leaf out, contact our Customer Service Department *on or before June 1st* and return the plant for inspection. We will issue you a credit for the price you paid for that plant (excluding freight) provided it does not show damage (rodent, mechanical, etc.) or root rot. This credit is redeemable toward the purchase of any other bare-root item of your choice the following year (Note: we reserve the right to not issue credit for replacement of already replaced items.) **This limited replacement guarantee does not apply to flower bulbs, citrus trees, potato seeds, olive trees, garlic, native plants, or conifer seedlings.**

### Limitation of Remedy

We warrant to the extent of the purchase price only that the seeds or plants sold hereunder are as described on the label within recognized tolerances. No other warranty is given, expressed or implied, of (1) the merchantability or fitness of the seeds or plants for any particular purpose, or (2) against loss due to any cause. We cannot accept any responsibility for the many uncontrollable growing and climatic conditions (soil preparation, fertilization, weed and pest control, temperature control, irrigation...etc.) that must be met to insure the success of your crop(s) or plants.

See our extensive product line and more informative literature at:

**[www.GrowOrganic.com](http://www.GrowOrganic.com)**

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