



GOLDEN CURRANT

Ribes odoratum

Native Range

Golden currant grows along the woodland borders or in the open. It is found statewide often in loose, open thickets.

Mature Size

Golden currant reaches a height of 3 to 5 feet and a spread of 3 to 5 feet..

Growth Rate

It grows at about 12 to 18 inches per year.

Leaves, Stems and Fruit

Leaves are rounded or triangular with 3 to 5 lobes. Yellow flowers bloom in late May. These are followed by a 1/3 to 1/2 inch, rounded, edible fruit which are purple-black when ripe. The twigs do not have thorns.

Use

Wildlife Habitat

Golden currant provides preferred roosting, loafing, or nesting cover for several songbirds. It's fruit is used by many birds for food. This plant is a preferred browse for mule deer.

Windbreaks

This plant can be used as an outside row in windbreaks. Its open growth pattern makes it a poor choice for single row windbreaks.

Human Food

The fruit is edible and may be used in pies, jam and jelly.

Adaptation

Statewide.

Soil

It tolerates about 50% shade. It prefers a well-drained soil and is rather common in sandy areas of central Kansas.

Spacing

Golden currants are usually spaced 4 feet apart.

Culture

One-year-old, bare-root seedlings, 12 to 18 inches tall are used in conservation plantings. Control of weed and grass competition is important for good survival and growth.

Pests

No serious pests.