

# Bush Fruits

## *Currants, Gooseberries, Jostaberries, Elderberries*

### **Site selection...**

**FULL SUN** is best for fruiting and the overall health of the plant, even though they will tolerate **part shade**.

With the exception of *elderberry* all prefer **well-drained soil**, *elderberry* does fine with **moist soil**.

All thrive in soil that is **rich in organic matter** so adding compost before planting is suggested.

### **Size...**

**Currants & Gooseberries** will get 4-5' Tall and 3-4' Wide.

**Jostaberries** will get 6-8' Tall/Wide.

**Elderberries** will get 6-12' Tall and 6-8' Wide.

### **Planting and Care...**

Bush fruits are relatively **easy to grow**, it is recommended that you provide a nice thin layer of mulch and compost and replenish it annually. Fertilizing is **not necessary** the first year in the ground.

When planting bush fruits it is recommended to provide **adequate spacing** and **good air circulation**, in order to reduce the risk of foliar disease.

(See spacing above)

Once the plants are 4-5 years old it is beneficial to **thin out the older branches** while dormant, making room for younger more productive branches.

### **Pollination...**

**Currants, Gooseberries, and Jostaberries** are all **self-fertile**, meaning that you do not need more than one variety to produce fruit.

**Elderberry** on the other hand would benefit from **cross-pollination** with another cultivar. It is recommend that **two different** cultivars of elderberry be planted near each other to ensure cross-pollination and good fruit set.



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Information was taken from

'**The Fruit Gardener's Bible**' by Hill and Perry 2011

'**Growing Currants, Goosberries, and Elderberries in Wisconsin**' by Roper, Mahr & McManus 1998

## ***Currant Varieties***

**Perfection (Red)** – Large easy to pick clusters of bright red fruit. Good quality. Plants are very vigorous.

**Imperial (White)** – Translucent fruit with a pink blush, bore on loose clusters. This berry is considered to have the richest, sweetest flavor of all currants.

**Consort (Black)** – Extremely cold hardy black currant that is an excellent source of Vitamin C. Makes great juice and wine. The plant has a very musky smell, which often repels deer and is resistant to the White Pine Blister Rust.

## ***Gooseberry Varieties***

**Pixwell** – Extremely winter hardy and productive. Fruit is large in size. Pink-red-purple in color with a thin skin.

**Captivator** – Large tear shaped fruit. The berries have a sweet flavor. Pink to red color when ripe – mid July.

**Hinnomaki** – An European gooseberry. Large, red berries with a sweet flavor. Canes are vigorous but very spiny compared to other varieties.

## ***Jostaberries***

Jostaberry is a cross between a Gooseberry and a Black Currant. Throne-less, vigorous, and disease resistant. Fruit is high in Vitamin C and forms in large clusters. Fruit is ideal for fresh eating, jams, and jellies. Ripens in July.

## ***Elderberry Varieties***

**Adams** – Larger fruit compared to the straight native plants. Grows about 8' tall, vigorous with strong canes. Ripens early August.

**York** – A bit more productive than Adams, with a slightly larger berry. Sweet, juicy, purplish black. Grows about 6-8', very vigorous. Ripens mid to late August.