CURRANT & GOOSEBERRY

Planting:
Currants and Gooseberries prefer light soil with good drainage. They need to be in an area where they will receive irrigation – once established they will tolerate short dry periods but to encourage the best production consistent watering is important.
Plant Currants and Gooseberries 6 feet apart with 6 to 7 feet in between rows.

Feeding:
Currants and Gooseberries need a balanced granular fertilizer. Apply fertilizer in spring as the leaves start to emerge. An all-purpose or Rhododendron food are the best options.

Pruning:
Prune in late winter or early spring. Prune to open the center of the shrub and to control extravagant growth. For the best fruit production maintain a balance of one, two, and three year old wood. Prune out any wood older than four years to increase production.

Disease and Pest Control:
Fungal diseases are somewhat common but many varieties have inherent resistance. Regular pruning and clean-up can help reduce the likelihood of disease problems. If problems are consistent timed copper sprays can control fungal disease.
Mites and aphids can affect Currants and Gooseberries but are generally easy to control. Currant Worm can occasionally affect yields but can be control with sprays in late spring. See Spray Schedule for full details.

Currant Varieties
Cherry Red, Currant – Large dark red fruit with an acid flavor. Great for jellies, jams and sauces.

Consort Black, Currant – Medium black berries with strong sweet flavor. Great for preserves and wine. Great for drying too. High Vitamin C content.

Primus White - Medium sized almost translucent berries are mild and sweet, great for fresh eating.

Gooseberry Varieties
Captivator, Gooseberry – Medium to large red fruits. Fruits are very sweet and edible right off the bush. Great for pies and preserves. Plants are vigorous and productive. Disease resistant.

Poorman, Gooseberry – Green with pink blush when ripe. They can be eaten fresh as they are sweeter than most varieties. Also great for pies and preserves. Plants are vigorous and productive.