

Ribes - Growing Guide

Growing Ribes

Currants

Ribes species originate from many different parts of the northern hemisphere. Burncoose offers a selection of flowering currants and ornamental gooseberries which are grown for their ornamental flowers rather than their fruit. The genus contains both evergreen and deciduous species which are largely spring flowering and very showy indeed in flower. All those which Burncoose offers are extremely hardy but *R. sanguineum* varieties especially do need hard pruning when they get straggly or untidy to rejuvenate them. This should take place immediately after flowering and usually before the leaf is full out. This will improve not just the shape of the plant but also its ability to produce more larger flowers in the following year.

Most species of deciduous Ribes will propagate from hardwood cuttings taken in the autumn and set in a coldframe. Evergreens are best propagated from semi-ripe new growth cuttings in summer. Those species which do produce currants can be sown in the autumn also in the coldframe.

The pictures attached to this article give some idea of the range and beauty of Ribes flowers.

R. x gordonianum appears sterile but it produces five-lobed flowers in dense pendant racemes. The flowers are red outside and yellow within. It grows to around 6ft in height.



Ribes laurifolium



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Ribes laurifolium



Ribes laurifolium



Ribes laurifolium 'Amy
Doncaster'



Ribes laurifolium 'Amy
Doncaster'



Ribes laurifolium 'Amy
Doncaster'



Ribes odoratum



Ribes odoratum



Ribes sanguineum 'King Edward VII'



Ribes sanguineum 'Pulborough Scarlet'



Ribes sanguineum 'Pulborough Scarlet'



Ribes sanguineum 'White Icicle'



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Ribes speciosum



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Ribes speciosum



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