



Wild Black Currant

Ribes nigrum (Black Currant)

CARE REQUIREMENTS

Sun:

- Full Sun to Partial Shade
- Best fruit production in full sun

Water:

- Moderate
- Prefers evenly moist soil, especially during fruiting

Mature Size:

- 4–6 ft tall
- 4–6 ft wide

Hardiness Zone:

- USDA Zones 3–7
- Very good for many Alaska growing areas

Growth Rate:

- Moderate to Fast

Bloom Time:

- Spring

Bloom Color:

- Small greenish-yellow to pinkish flowers

Fruit Harvest:

- Mid to Late Summer

Fruit:

- Glossy deep purple to black berries
- Strong, tart, aromatic flavor
- Exceptionally high in Vitamin C
- Excellent for jam, syrup, juice, wine, and medicinal use

PLANTING

Best Planting Conditions:

- Plant in full sun for maximum fruit production
- Tolerates partial shade
- Prefers rich, well-drained soil with good organic matter
- Thrives in cooler climates
- Avoid poorly drained or overly dry sites

SPACING

Spacing:

- 4–6 ft apart

ALASKA NOTES

Alaska-Specific Tips:

- Excellent cold tolerance
- Performs well in cooler summers
- May benefit from wind protection in exposed sites
- Mulch heavily for winter root protection
- Good option for edible hedges and homestead berry production

PRUNING & MAINTENANCE

Pruning:

- Prune in late winter or early spring
- Fruit is best on younger wood
- Remove oldest stems annually to encourage vigorous new growth
- Maintain 8–12 productive canes for strong yields

Fertilizing:

- Compost or balanced fertilizer in spring
- Benefits from organic matter

COMMON MISTAKES

- Planting in overly dry soil
- Neglecting cane renewal pruning
- Poor airflow causing mildew
- Too much shade reducing fruiting
- Ignoring regional disease regulations

KEN'S TIPS

- **Black Currants are one of the most nutrient-dense berries you can grow — if you want hardy, productive, old-world berry power for Alaska, this shrub is a serious performer.**