



## Consort Black Currant

*Ribes nigrum* 'Consort'

### CARE REQUIREMENTS

**Sun:**

- Full Sun to Partial Shade
- Best fruiting in full sun

**Water:**

- Moderate
- Prefers evenly moist, well-drained soil

**Mature Size:**

- 4–6 ft tall
- 4–6 ft wide

**Hardiness Zone:**

- USDA Zones 3–7
- Excellent for Alaska and northern climates

**Growth Rate:**

- Moderate to Fast

**Bloom Time:**

- Spring

**Bloom Color:**

- Small greenish-yellow flowers

**Fruit Harvest:**

- Mid to Late Summer

**Fruit:**

- Deep black glossy berries
- Strong, tart, aromatic flavor
- High in Vitamin C and antioxidants
- Excellent for juice, syrup, jam, wine, and preserves

## PLANTING

### Best Planting Conditions:

- Plant in full sun for maximum berry production
- Tolerates partial shade
- Prefers fertile, organically rich, well-drained soil
- Thrives in cooler northern climates
- Avoid overly dry or waterlogged soils

## SPACING

### Spacing:

- 4–6 ft apart

## ALASKA NOTES

### Alaska-Specific Tips:

- Excellent cold tolerance
- One of the better black currants for harsh winter climates
- White pine blister rust resistance makes it a preferred choice in many regions
- Wind protection may improve flowering and fruit set in exposed areas
- Mulch roots before winter for added protection

## PRUNING & MAINTENANCE

### Pruning:

- Prune in late winter or early spring
- Best fruit develops on younger wood
- Remove oldest stems annually to encourage productive new canes
- Maintain 8–12 strong canes for ideal productivity

### Fertilizing:

- Compost or balanced fertilizer in spring
- Organic matter improves vigor and fruiting

## COMMON MISTAKES

- Planting in overly dry soil
- Skipping annual cane renewal pruning
- Too much shade reducing fruit yield
- Poor airflow increasing mildew risk
- Ignoring local planting regulations for Ribes species where applicable

## KEN'S TIPS

- **Consort is one of the smartest black currant choices for northern growers — productive, hardy, disease-resistant, and packed with flavor if you love robust old-world berry richness.**