

Garden red currant (*Ribes rubrum*)

Family name: Gooseberry (Grossulariaceae)

Native range: Eurasia

NJ Status: Emerging Stage 1 - Uncommon (may be regionally common or abundant). It is *moderately threatening* to natural plant communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

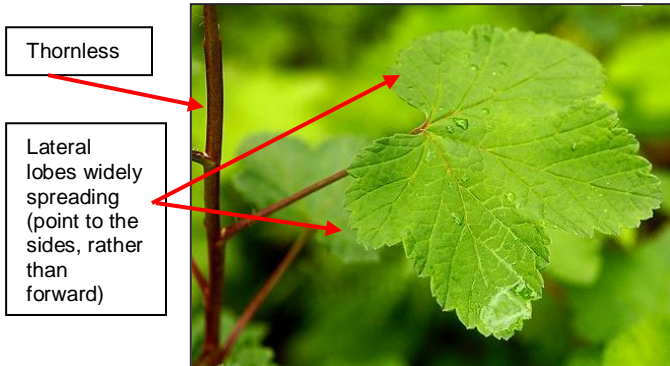
General description:



- Shade tolerant, deciduous shrub
- Stems erect
- Thornless

Leaves:

- Alternate, crowded on short branches
- Lateral lobes widely spreading
- Without resin glands below



Thornless

Lateral lobes widely spreading (point to the sides, rather than forward)

Flowers:

- Yellow-green, 5-parted with a short stem
- Borne in hanging racemes (unbranched grouping of flowers)
- Late April-May



Fruit:

- Smooth, red
- Numerous seeds
- Edible, ripening in July



Habitat:

- Moist forests, thickets, landscaping
- Sun to partial shade

Commercial availability: Yes

Look-alikes:

Other thornless *Ribes* species with smooth fruits, including:

Wild black currant (*Ribes americanum*)

- Native to moist forests, marshes, thickets
- Leaves have resinous glands below
- Fruit black



Buffalo currant (*Ribes odoratum*)

- Native to Great Plains, cultivated and escaped
- Fruit black
- Flowers bright yellow



Wild red currant (*Ribes triste*)

- Rare species— consult field guide
- This species is tracked by NJDEP and is protected by the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act
- Native to wet, rocky forests, swamps, cliffs
- Stems often not upright, straggling
- Flower stalks glandular
- Fruit red
- Lateral lobes directed forward



Lateral lobes point forward