PLANT FACT SHEET

Ribes rubrum L. pro parte sense Jancz.

GENUS *Ribes* **FAMILY** Grossulariaceae

COMMON NAMES Red currant

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves - tea, Twigs - flavouring

Fruit can be eaten fresh. They are also used for fruit drinks.
They are also used in jams and jellies, puddings, pies, tarts, syrups and sauces. They are also made into wines.
The flowers are used for tea. The leaves are also dried and used for tea.
The twigs are used as flavouring in pickles.

DESCRIPTION

A small bushy shrub. It grows 1.5 m tall. It spreads 1.5-2 m wide. It loses its leaves during the year. The stems are smooth. The leaves have 3-5 lobes. They are 10 cm across. They can be downy underneath. The flowers are green with some red colouring. They can be upright or hang down. The fruit allow light through.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It needs light well-drained soil. It requires full sunlight and shelter from wind. It suits hardiness zones 3-9. In Hobart Botanical gardens as Ribes sativum.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from cuttings of one or two year old wood. It should be cut back to a short single trunk then allowed to develop a sturdy open bush with about 10 main canes. These should be removed and others allowed to regrow about each 6 years.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Fruit are produced after about 2 years.

NOTES

Fruit are rich in Vitamin C. There are about 150 Ribes species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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