

Care Guidelines

Evergreen Huckleberry & Lingonberry

Evergreen Huckleberry –(Vaccinium ovatum) Small to medium evergreen shrub, Requires shade in Idaho, moist, acidic soil April to June inconspicuous white-pink flower beneath twigs. Young foliage bronze or coppery. Does not need pollinator but more than 1 plant helpful for fruit production.

Lingonberry jams, juices, and liquors are popular in Europe, especially Finland. The pea-sized fruits have a strong red color and a tart aroma that is produced by benzoic, tannic, and fruit acids. Their pectic content is worthy of mention. The Lingonberry is rich in benzoic acid, to which it owes its extraordinarily good shelf-life (8 weeks under refrigeration). The Lingonberry is a fantastic ornamental plant. The bright red berries and bright evergreen foliage could make an exciting living centerpiece to grace your Thanksgiving dinner!

Planting: Amend local soil with 50% peat mixture. Lingonberry and Huckleberry prefer acidic soil that is well-drained. Plant in a sunny location with afternoon shade. Regular watering is needed but do not let plant stand in water. Both need extra protection in winter for this area.

Pruning: These easy-care shrubs are compact and require very little pruning. Only trim to maintain pleasant shape.

Gooseberries & Currants

Poorman Gooseberries originated in Utah and were introduced in 1888. The berries are green but turn pink when ripe. This is a table variety that can be eaten fresh. They are sweeter than most gooseberries. The berries are $\frac{3}{4}$ "-1" in size. Overall height is 3'-4' tall. Plants are vigorous and reliably productive.

Both **Red and Black Currants** are cold hardy and produce clusters of sweet berries with unique flavor. Red variety tends to ripen sooner. Currants are slightly less heat tolerant than Gooseberries.

Planting: Allow 16 square feet of growing space per bush. Early spring is the best time to plant. Be sure to plant slightly deeper than they were at the nursery. Add peat to your soil and mix well before back filling the hole. Apply fertilizer or manure carefully, avoid touching the crowns of the plants. Mulching with 2"-3" of soil aid or other 'pest-free' mulch is suggested to maintain proper moisture. As with most berries, regular watering is needed. Plants like moist, well-drained soil. Plant at least 2 bushes to guarantee cross-pollination.

Pruning: Fruit is produced on one-, two-, and three-year-old wood. Older wood produces inferior fruit and should be removed. Once a third crop is produced on a branch, go ahead and prune it back. A mature, well-pruned, fruit-bearing currant or gooseberry bush consists of 3-5 branches of wood from 1-3 years of age.