



Currants - Planting, Care, and Cultivation

Mini-brochure - Landscape, print-friendly (ASCII-only)

- Choose type: red and white currants for tart, translucent clusters; black currants for rich flavor and high vitamin C.
- Site: full sun to light shade; cooler climates suit black currants; ensure airflow to reduce disease.
- Soil: fertile, well-drained loam; slightly acidic to neutral; add compost before planting.
- Space: allow airflow and easy harvest; plan training form before planting.
- Variety: pick disease-resistant cultivars adapted to your region.

Planting - spacing and steps

Spacing	1.2 to 1.5 m between bushes; rows 1.8 to 2.4 m. For cordon or fan training, follow support spacing.
Depth	Plant 5 cm deeper than in the nursery pot to encourage multiple shoots (esp. black currants).
Soil prep	Incorporate compost; avoid fresh manure. Good drainage is essential.
Mulch	Mulch 5 to 8 cm to keep roots cool and moist; keep away from stems.
Water	Deeply after planting; keep evenly moist in year 1.

Watering and feeding

Water	About 2.5 to 4 cm per week during active growth and fruit fill. Mulch helps retain moisture.
Feeding	In early spring, apply a balanced slow-release fertilizer at label rate, or top-dress with compost.

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Pruning and training

Form	Open-centered bush for home gardens; cordon or fan against wires or fence for small spaces.
Black currant	Fruits mostly on 1 to 2 year wood. Each winter remove about a third of the oldest stems at the base to renew.
Red and white currant	Fruits on older spurs. Lightly shorten new growth; retain a framework of younger to mid-age branches.
After planting	Cut back shoots to 2 to 4 buds to encourage strong basal growth (esp. for black currants).

Pests and diseases - quick view

Common issues	Aphids, currant sawfly, spider mites; powdery mildew, leaf spot, rust.
Prevention	Choose airy, sunny sites; prune for airflow; mulch; water in mornings; keep area weed-free.
Action	Hand-pick sawfly larvae; use insecticidal soap for small pests; remove diseased leaves; rotate locations if problems persist.

Seasonal calendar

Spring	Plant or transplant; feed lightly; mulch; prune after planting to shape; monitor early pests.
Summer	Water steadily; harvest when clusters are fully colored; net bushes if birds are a problem.
Autumn	Remove weak, crossing wood; top up mulch; clear fallen leaves.
Winter	Structural pruning while dormant; renew old stems for black currants.

Propagation

Hardwood cuttings	Take pencil-thick cuttings 20 to 25 cm in late autumn or winter. Insert two-thirds deep in a nursery bed; transplant next year.
Layering	Bend a low flexible shoot to the ground, peg and cover a section with soil, tip exposed. Separate and transplant once rooted.

Bush plan worksheet

Variety	Form and spacing	Mulch plan	Pruning notes	Action date

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