

# URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

## From Seed to Harvest: A beginner's guide to growing Currants

Currants are a type of berry that comes in red, black or white colors. They grow on small shrubs. Currants are a hardy, easy-to-grow berry that goes well in pies, jams or pastries. Currants are native to North America.

### To plant:

Currants are self-pollinating, so multiple plants aren't necessary to produce fruits. Currants should be planted in the early spring. To prepare a site for planting, add a layer of compost and dig it into the soil. Dig a hole two times as big as the currant's root ball, and loosen the soil at the bottom of the hole. If the currant bush has shoots, cut them back to 6 to 10 inches before planting. Space plants 4 to 5 feet apart in rows set 6 feet apart. Water the newly planted currants with a slow trickle for 60 to 90 minutes.

### To grow:

Currants grow best in partial or full sun. Adding mulch can help retain moisture and deter weeds. Currants should be pruned in the early spring following the first year. For the first year of pruning, prune everything but six to eight shoots. The second year pruning, remove all but four or five healthy shoots that are one-year old and three or four healthy shoots that are two years old. Every year following, prune so that four to five shoots remain that are one year old, and three to four shoots remain that are older. Any branches older than three years old should be removed as well.



[Red Currant seeds available at ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)

### To harvest:

Currant plants typically aren't ready to harvest for a year after planting, but 2-year old plants should produce flowers and berries. One currant bush can produce up to 10 pounds of berries per season. Currants have various colors, so pick them two to three weeks after they have turned the color they are supposed to be, which could be white, black or red. To harvest, pick the entire sprig and pull off the individual berries later. Dry the berries off after picking them because they mold quickly. Store fresh currants in the fridge for up to four days. If you freeze the whole berry, they can be kept good for several months.

### What currants crave:

Feed currants once a year, usually in the spring. Use a potassium-rich fertilizer. For natural fertilizers, use a seaweed-based one. When mulching around the currants, add some pine needles. This will add natural acidity, which currants need.



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## Where to buy currant plants:

Urban Farmer carries both currant seeds and plants.

Check out our currant selection on our website at [ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)!



[Red Lake Currant plants available at ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)



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