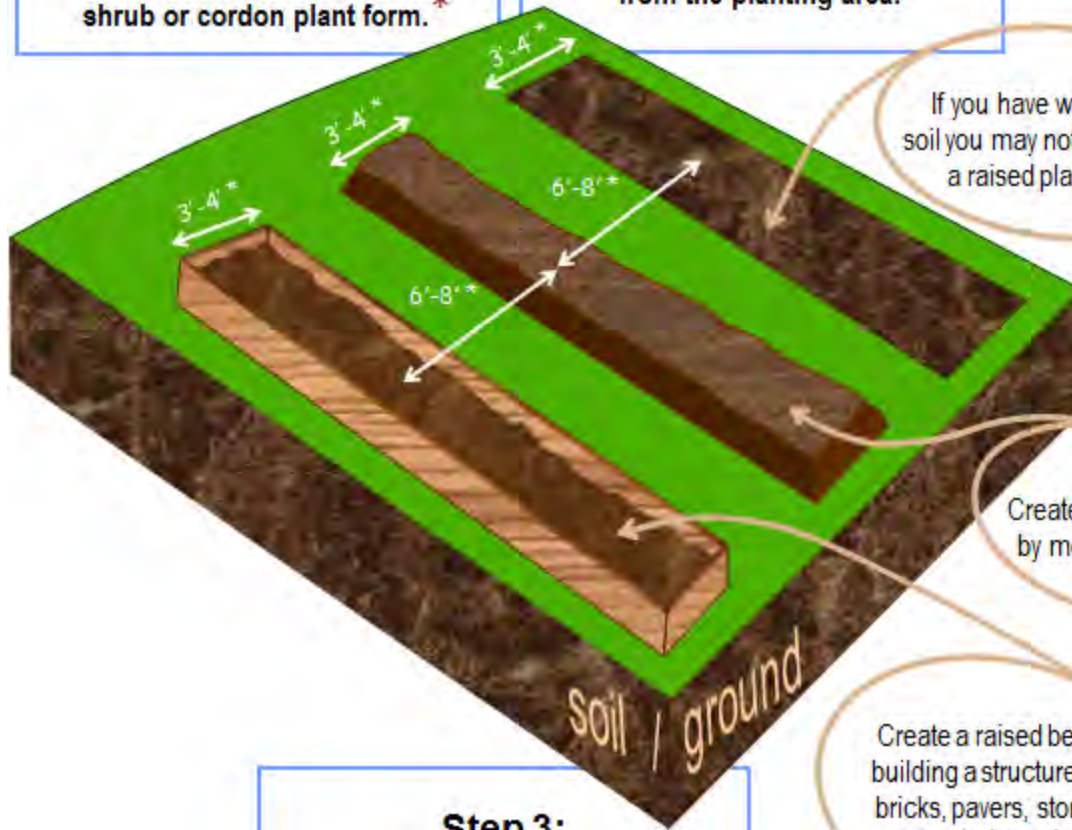


### Step 1:

Measure your planting beds according to your planned shrub or cordon plant form.\*

### Step 2:

Remove grass and other weeds from the planting area.



If you have well-draining soil you may not need to build a raised planting bed.

Create a raised bed by mounding soil.

Create a raised bed by building a structure with bricks, pavers, stone or untreated wood and fill with soil.

### Step 3:

Build raised beds, add organic matter and adjust pH as necessary.

## Prepare Your Planting Area for Gooseberries and Currants

- Avoid southern facing slopes because intense sun may injure the plants.
- Planting on a slight slope will facilitate air drainage.
- Plants will thrive in well-drained soil that contains at least 2-3% organic matter. If organic matter is required, mix in some **well-aged** compost or composted manure a few weeks prior to planting or in the autumn prior to spring planting.
- If your soil is slow to drain after a rain, if you have heavier soil or clay soil, you may need to add some amendments and/or build raised beds. Your local extension service knows your soil and can advise you further on this.
- Adjust pH if necessary.
- Allow enough space to avoid overcrowding because adequate air circulation is critical in impeding foliar disease.
- Access to water is important. Plants will need irrigation at planting and throughout the growing season.
- Do not fertilize close to your planting date! In the fall prior to planting or at least 2 - 3 weeks prior to planting, till in  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb -  $\frac{3}{4}$  lb 10-10-10 per 100 sq. ft. Otherwise, wait until the plants are well established and top dress.

\* Diagrams show recommended minimum spacing for red, white and pink currants and gooseberry plants as shrubs rather than cordons. If you are planning to grow your plants as cordons, growing black currants, or growing larger, highly vigorous varieties, you must modify your spacing accordingly. For details, please review additional pages and links on our website, call us or call your local agricultural extension office.

## Ribes Varieties At A Glance

	SEASON	FRUIT SIZE	FRUIT COLOR	BUSH HABIT	SHOWS RESISTANCE TO	ZONE
<b>Red Currants</b>						
Jonkheer van Tets	Early	Medium	Red	Upright	Mildew	3-7
Rovada	Late	Large	Red	Upright	Mildew	3-7
<b>White and Pink Champagne Currants</b>						
Blanka	Mid	Large	Off-White	Spreading	Mildew	3-7
Pink Champagne	Mid	Medium	Pink	Upright	Mildew	3-7
<b>Black Currants</b>						
Ben Sarek	Mid	Large	Black	Compact	WPBR	3-7
<b>Gooseberries</b>						
Hinnomaki Red	Mid	Medium	Red	Upright	Mildew	3-7
Invicta	Early/Mid	Large	Pale Green	Spreading	Mildew	3-7
Tixia*	Mid/Late	Large	Red	Upright	•	3-7

Plant currants and gooseberries in well-prepared, weed-free soil that contains at least 3% organic matter. Planting on a slight slope will facilitate cold air drainage. Avoid southern-facing slopes, since intense sun may injure the plants. Soil pH should be between 6.0 and 6.3.

Set black currants 4 to 5 feet apart in the row. Black currant rows should be spaced no less than 5 feet apart; 8 to 9 feet apart is recommended for home gardeners, and up to 10 feet apart for machine harvesting for commercial production. Refer to page 20 of the Nourse Planting Guide for spacing of red currants and gooseberries.

Our extensive planting guide will arrive with each order to provide you with further details for success. Our web site also contains helpful information.

*Massachusetts has restrictions on the planting of currants and gooseberries. Please check with the Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture for regulations in your area. Other states may also have planting restrictions. Please contact your local extension offices or the Department of Agriculture for up-to-date regulations.*

## Currant & Gooseberry Planting

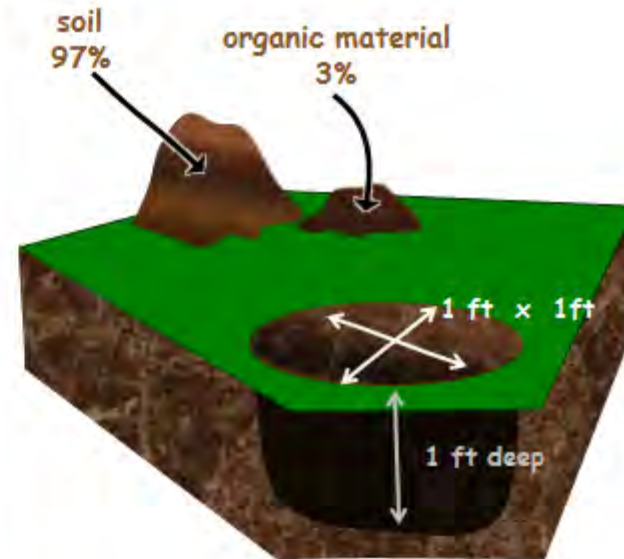
Do not fertilize close to your planting date. Mix  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb -  $\frac{3}{4}$  lb 10-10-10 per 100 sq. ft. in the fall prior to planting, or at least 2 - 3 weeks prior to planting, otherwise wait until the plants are well established.

Dig a hole deep and wide enough to cover the plug/roots. Plants should be set slightly deeper than they were in the nursery.

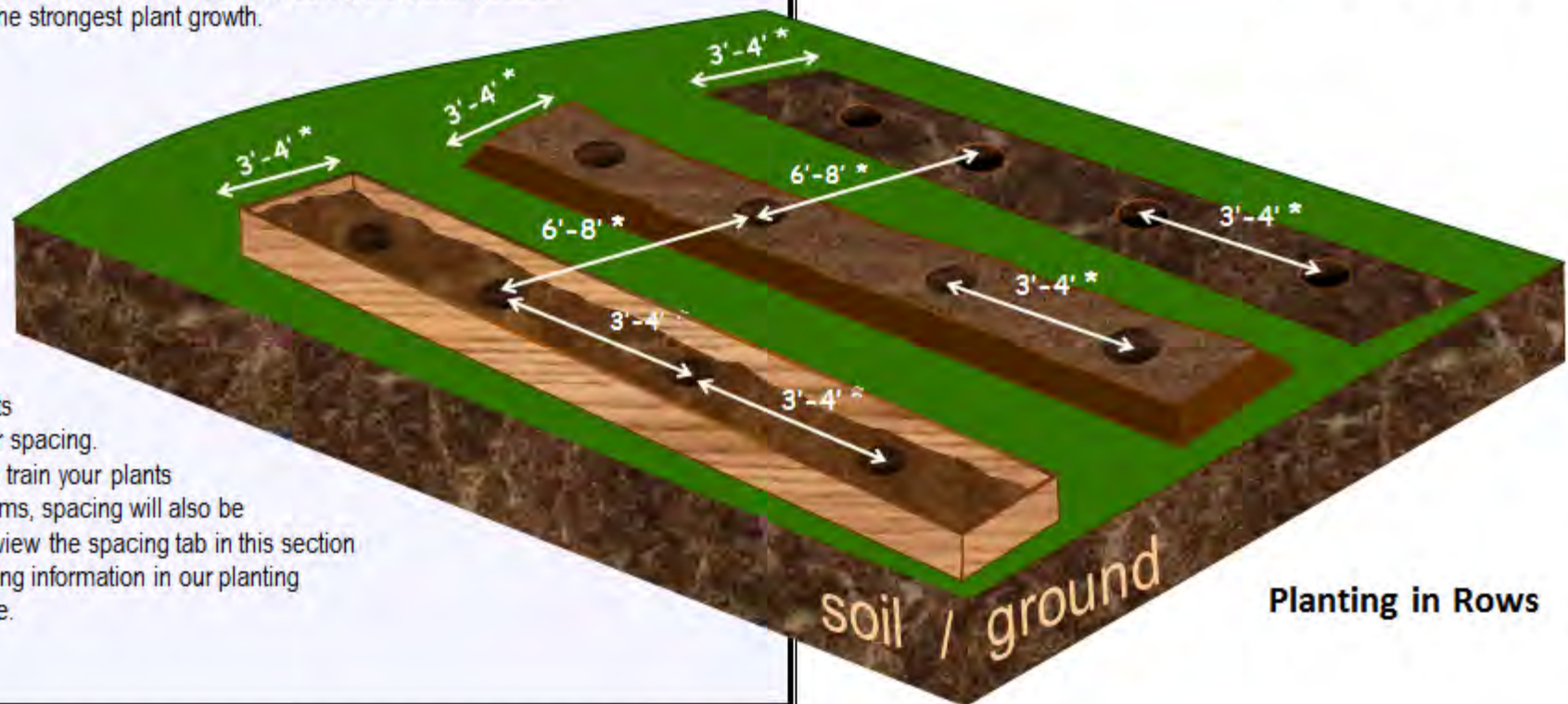
After you have mixed the appropriate amendments into the soil, you are ready to plant.

Prune the new plants. Cut gooseberry and red, white and pink currants to 6-8 inches. Prune black currants down to 2 buds.

Remove any flower blossoms that develop during the planting season to encourage the strongest plant growth.



Solitary Planting



Planting in Rows

\* Black currants require wider spacing. If you want to train your plants as cordon forms, spacing will also be different. Review the spacing tab in this section and the spacing information in our planting success guide.

# Currant and Gooseberry Plant Spacing

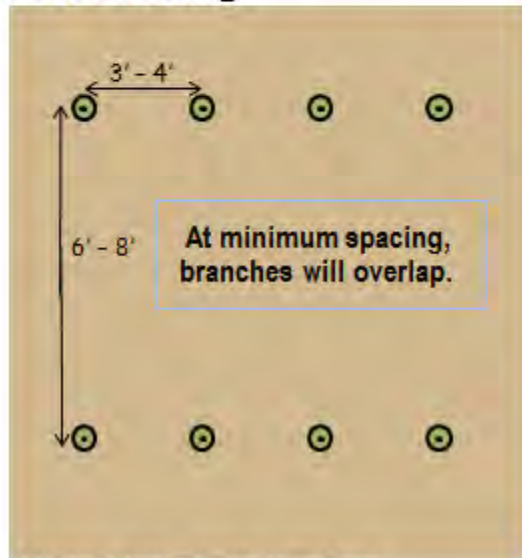
Spacing will depend on vigor and growth habit of the variety, site conditions including sun exposure and soil fertility, equipment you will use, and how you plan to grow the plants. You can grow Ribes as rounded shrubs or as single, double or triple cordons which require less space. Harvesting gooseberries from cordons is easier than from full shrubs. Avoid planting too densely because adequate air circulation is critical for hindering foliar disease problems. **Attention: Spacing is different for black currants.**

SPACING (Full Shrubs)	SPACING (Full shrubs)
gooseberry / red, white, pink currant	black currant
3' - 4' between plants	4' - 5' between plants
6' - 8' between rows	7' - 9' between rows

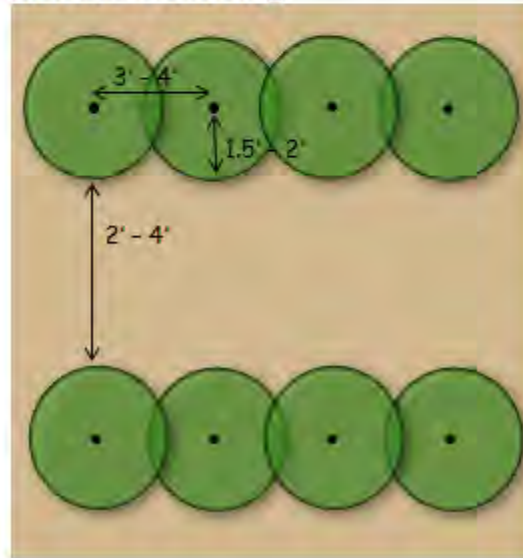


gooseberry / red, white, pink currant  
Grown as Shrubs

## New Planting



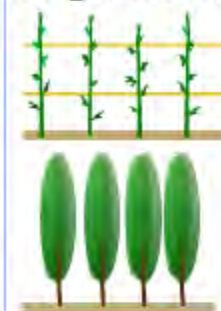
## Mature Planting



Graphics by Janna Thompson, Nourse Farms

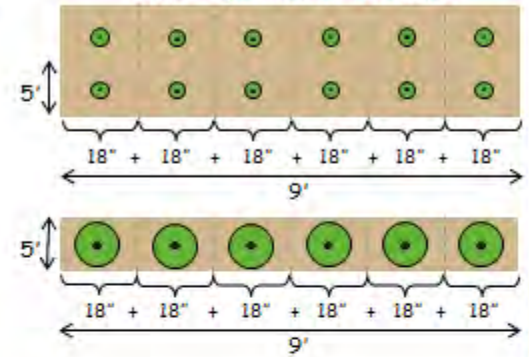
## gooseberry / red, white, pink currant Grown as Cordons (rows are at least 5' apart)

### Single Cordon

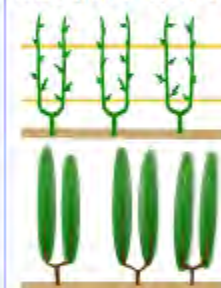


18" - 20" plant spacing

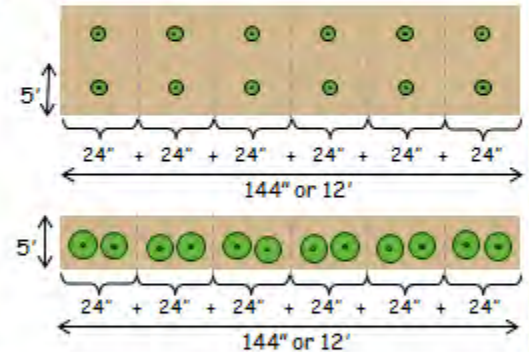
New planting with rows set five feet apart.



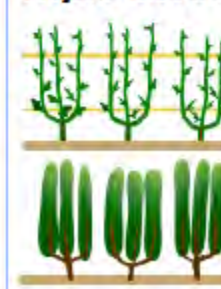
### Double Cordon



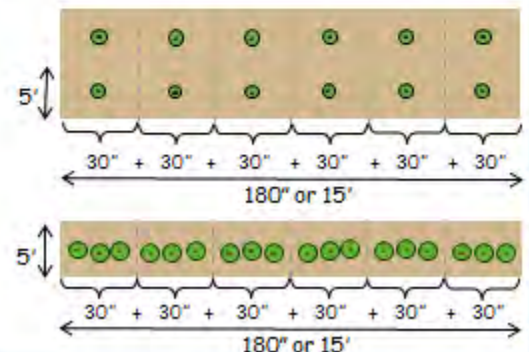
24" - 30" plant spacing



### Triple Cordon



30" - 36" plant spacing



Diagrams not to scale

# Maintain Your Currant & Gooseberry Plants

## IRRIGATION

- 1" - 2" rainfall or equivalent per week throughout the growing season depending on soil conditions.
- Drip or trickle irrigation is best. Overhead irrigation supports development of foliage disease.

## FERTILIZATION

- No fertilization is required the year of planting.
- Following years: Apply 5oz 10-10-10 per plant in the spring, or ½ the amount (2 ½ oz.) in the spring and again (2 ½ oz.) during the summer.
- Do not fertilize after July

## WEED CONTROL

- Although use of mulch helps inhibit weeds, manual weeding will be necessary or regular, **shallow** cultivation by hoe.
- Mulch with a 2" – 4" layer of aged wood chips (not fresh), straw or finished compost. Commercial growers may use plastic with irrigation underneath.
- Avoid treated or colored bark mulch. Avoid using leaves, sawdust, and mushroom compost. Do not use Cedar or Black Walnut wood chips.
- Contact your local extension for chemical recommendations

## PRUNING AS SHRUBS (Also see diagrams in our *Planting Success Guide*)

(For more detailed information on other pruning methods and pruning cordon forms, please visit additional pages and links on our website, call us or call your local agricultural extension office.)

- Pruning will be required annually during dormancy.
- Regularly prune central canes and or branches to maintain some openness in the center of the plant to allow air and sunlight to enter.

### red/white/pink currants & gooseberries

- At planting, it is recommended to cut the plant back to 6-8 inches.
- Remove the lowest branches, weak branches and any that are diseased, damaged or less than 6" long. Leave three or four each of one-, two- and three-year-old canes (8-12 canes total).
- Since red, white and pink currants and gooseberries fruit most heavily on spurs (short branches) of 1, 2 & 3 year old canes, you will remove all canes older than 3 years at ground level.

### black currants

- At planting, prune each cane so that only two buds are left near the base.
- Black currants produce most on one-year-old (overwintered) growth. Therefore, your objective is to retain strong one-year-old canes as well as two- and three-year-old canes which have good one-year shoots. All four-year-old canes get cut out at the base.
- Remove the lowest branches, weak branches and any that are diseased or damaged.
- You may leave 8-15 canes per plant, depending on the vigor and growth habit of the variety.