

# Currants Planting and Care Guide



## Red and Black Currants Planting Guide

1. Choose the best site:
  - Sun: Full sun to partial shade (currants tolerate shade better than many other berry plants).
  - Soil: Avoid very sandy and heavy clay soils.
  - Spacing: Plant 4-5 ft apart (3 ft apart for black currant fruiting hedge).
2. Dig a hole deeper and wider than the root system.
3. Gently break apart any root ball to spread the roots. Plant deep enough for 2-3 buds on the lower canes to be under the soil (at least 1" lower than the pot soil level). This encourages a larger root system and the development of numerous renewal canes.
4. Mix some compost into the soil as you backfill the hole. Firmly pack the soil down (even stomp on it with your feet).
5. Water the plants immediately after planting.
6. Optional: to help maintain soil moisture mulch with 2-3 inches of wood chips, pine needles, etc.

## Caring for Your Currant Plant(s)

- Newly planted currants should be watered several times a week to maintain moist soil. If the weather becomes dry and hot, you may need to water them every day. Once the plants have been in the ground for a few weeks, water a few times per week (more if hot and dry) throughout the first growing season.
- Regular watering isn't as crucial once the plant is established but make sure to be watering any older plants during hot dry spells. The plants are likely to grow taller and produce more, larger berries if you do continue some regular watering after the first year.
- Fertilizing your plants each year with a balanced organic fertilizer is a good idea to increase the vigor of the plants and the size of the berries.
- Pruning is needed to keep currant plants healthy. For the first three seasons you will not need to prune. Just remove dead or damaged wood. Before the 4th season, prune out the oldest canes, about ¼ of the plant. A mature shrub should have 9 to 12 canes once pruning is completed.

*Adapted from our own experience and [University of MN Extension "Growing Currants and Gooseberries in the Home Garden"](#).*