

## Golden Currant

*Ribes aureum*

**Distribution:** Golden Currant occurs along the east slope of the Cascades and from the Far East of Washington, eastwards across the Rockies.

**Growth:** Golden Currant grows as a smallish shrub, reaching 6' tall and spreading 4 to 6' wide.

**Adaptability:** Golden Currant can be found growing in a variety of sites. It occurs from damp brushy sites to exposed rocky hillsides. It grows best with good sunlight.

**Comments:** Golden Currant is what is known as a *dual use species*. That means that it is both a valuable ornamental species and a good conservation plant. Its qualities as an ornamental are all too obvious in April when it is in bloom. Established plants are covered with bright yellow flowers. Some flowers will have a slight reddish or purplish tinge. It also has attractive yellowish-green foliage that turns bright yellow in the fall. Golden Currant also has many attributes as a conservation species. The plant produces small berries that attract many birds and small mammals. The berries are also considered to be edible for people but can be quite tart. Golden Currant is also a good soil stabilizer for both up slope sites and damp areas.

