

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

# *Ribes cynosbati*

## Prickly Gooseberry



Also called wild or pasture gooseberry. A small, rounded shrub, branches densely prickly. Small, fragrant flowers in April-May, greenish-white. Fruit is deep purple, and edible, but prickly. Fall color can be beautiful - yellow, orange, red, purple. Often found in upland woods, but is adaptable to many different sites and soils; transplants well. Prickly gooseberry is an alternate host for white pine blister rust, and should not be planted near stands of white pine.

***Suggested companions:*** mapleleaf viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*).

Photo Credit: Wisconsin State Herbarium, by Emmet J. Judziewicz

Plant Type: Shrub  
Size: 3-6' H  
3-6' W

Water Tolerant: Somewhat

Habitat:

Forested Upland  
Forested Wetland  
Woodland Margin

Soil: Average Garden Soil  
Sandy/ Gravelly  
Rich Moist  
Clay  
Very Damp/Wet

Exposure: sun  
filtered  
shade

Flower Color:

White  
Green

Plant in:

Groundcover: No

Bloom Time:

April  
May

Other Attributes:

Fragrant  
Bird attracting  
Wildlife attracting  
Fall color  
Edible fruit  
Butterfly attracting