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