

Barney, D.L., Hummer, K.E.: **Currants, Gooseberries, and Jostaberries. A Guide for Growers, Marketers, and Researchers in North America.** - Food Products Press®, An Imprint of The Haworth Press, New York - London - Oxford 2005. xiv + 266 pp. Hard cover: USD 59.95. ISBN 13: 978-1-56022-296-5 / ISBN 10: 1-56022-296-4. Soft cover: USD 34.95. ISBN 13: 978-1-56022-297-2. / ISBN 10: 1-56022-297-2.

This book was written because of increased interest in the United States and Canada and the need for up-to-date information on *Ribes* culture and marketing. The authors have reviewed briefly the history of *Ribes* culture, including currants, gooseberries, and jostaberries. The book presents in detail the necessary components of successful *Ribes* culture farming, including site and soil selection, design of planting site, plant propagation, cultivar selection, cultural practices, pest and disease management, harvesting and marketing, *etc.*

The volume contains 12 chapters, focused mainly to practical problems. The introductory chapter is devoted to history of currant, gooseberry, and jostaberry cultivation and production (jostaberry: combination of German names *Johannisbeere* and *Stachelbeere*; black-currant × gooseberry hybrid, *Ribes* × *nidigrolaria* Bauer). Most of the information presented in Chapter 2 may be interesting for readers of *Biologia Plantarum* (taxonomy and genetics, growth and development, fruit composition, *etc.*). Chapters 3 and 4 are devoted to propagation (seeds and stock, layering, cuttings), and to selecting a planting site (nonsite and site considerations, summer and winter temperatures, frosts, water, topography and site surroundings, light exposure, pests and disease, *etc.*). Designing a currant, gooseberry, or jostaberry farm (field layout, vertebrate pest control, irrigation system, respiration and heat production) is dealt with in chapter 5, and preparing a site for planting (amending the soil, fertilization, weed and pest control) in chapter 6. *Ribes* cultivar characterization, planting and establishing, production and recommendation focus on crop management (nutrition, fertilization, *etc.*) including methods to determine fertilization needs (visual symptoms of deficiencies, soil and tissue analysis, weed control), fruiting and training, pollination, winter

protection, *etc.* (chapters 7 - 9).

Pests and diseases of *Ribes* are described in detail in chapter 10 (insects, mites, invertebrated pests, viruses: *Pulvinaria innumerabilis*, *Crypromyzus ribis*, *Synanthemon tipuliformis*, *Epochra canadensis*, *Janus integer*, eriophyid mites, *Poecilocapsus lineatus*, *Opostega scioterma*, *Zophodia convolutella*, *Nematus ribesii*, *Chrisobothris mali*, *Quadraspidiotus perniciosus*, slugs, *Malacosoma* spp., *Tetranychus urticae*, *etc.*). Further part of this chapter presents disease descriptions (*Cercospora angulata*, *Drepanopezia ribis*, *Armillaria mellea*, *Cronartium ribicola*, *Botrytis cinerea*, *Botryosphaeria ribis*, *Nectria cinnabarina*, *Puccinia ribesi-caricis*, powdery mildew, *Mycosphaerella ribis*, viruses, *etc.*

Harvesting, storing, and marketing *Ribes* crops, and postharvest care and storage are summarized in chapters 11 and 12. Of special value to plant breeders is a part on breeding that lists a wide array of genetic traits for numerous cultivars. Breeding currants, gooseberries, and jostaberries is dealt with in a large table "Suggested parents to obtain desired qualities in *Ribes*".

Appendices A and B present Site selection checklist, and Enterprice budget.

This book is a reliable guide for prospective growers and provides valuable information to *Ribes* researchers, and a good source of information on the field presented. It is also a useful source of references on the subject (more than 200 references). The book is well edited and produced, and is provided by subject and species index (almost 550 items). It can be recommended to everybody interested in *Ribes* research and extension.

The book is available at <http://www.haworthpress.com/store/product.asp?sku=5274>.

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