

Gooseberry 'Hinnomaki Red' (*Ribes uva-crispa*)

3-5' vigorous, very productive thorny shrub, from Finland. Can be grown as free-standing shrubs, tree-like shrubs, or trained on hedgerows.

Ornamental foliage resembles grape leaves.

Fruit: Showy medium-sized berry in June/July, dark red skin with lighter flesh. Excellent sweet taste, with tart skins. Produces fruit the first year. Mature shrubs yield 4-8 lbs. of fruit, for 15 years or more. Use as dessert fruit, in sauces, pies, jams. For jelly, pick before fully ripe. Refrigerated berries keep for several weeks.

Exposure: Good disease resistance, likes good air circulation. Needs sun, but likes northern exposures, which give some afternoon shade, and reduces frost damage to flower buds.

Soil moisture: Provide well-drained soil, and 1" of water per week in June/July.

Soil matter: Moderately acid to neutral soil, at least 1% organic matter, high potassium, low nitrogen; 2-4" organic mulch (wood chips, pine needles.) Fertilize with compost or manure in fall.

Planting: 1" deeper than in pot, with 2-3 buds per cane below surface; in holes deeper/wider than root system; prune all canes to 4-6" above above-ground buds.

Pruning: While dormant in late winter or early spring. After 1st year, remove all but 6-8 vigorous shoots; after 2nd year, leave 4-5 one-year shoots, 3-4 two-year canes; after 3rd year, leave 3-4 shoots each of one-, two-, three-year growth. After 4 years, canes unproductive.

Attracts birds and butterflies.



Photo 1:

Missouri Botanic PlantFinder

missouribotanicalgarden.org/gardens-gardening/your-garden/help-for-the-home-gardener.aspx

Photos 2, 3:

North Central Conservation District