

## UNH Cooperative Extension Info Line Question of the Week

### Gooseberries and Currants

Q. I'd like to grow gooseberries and currants to make jam. Are these plants well-suited for growth in New Hampshire?

A. Many currant and gooseberry shrubs (*Ribes*) thrive in the New Hampshire climate. However, state regulations prohibit growing many varieties, because they serve as the alternate host for white pine blister rust, a serious disease of white pine.

With permission from the New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands, you may plant blister rust-resistant varieties. To apply for a permit and receive a list of permitted varieties, contact the Division of Forests and Lands, (603) 271-2214, P.O.Box 1856, Concord, NH, 03302-1856.

*Ribes* are hardy throughout the State and do best where the growing season is 110 days or longer and the summers are relatively cool. Because frost damage in the spring is a danger, plant currants and gooseberries on a slightly elevated site in well-drained, loamy soil rich in organic matter, with a pH of approximately 6.5. Protect with an inch or two of mulch to conserve moisture, suppress weeds and help keep soil cool.

**Got questions?** UNH Cooperative Extension Education Center's Info Line offers practical help finding answers for your lawn and garden questions. Call toll free at 1-877-398-4769, M-F, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., or e-mail us at [answers@unh.edu](mailto:answers@unh.edu).