



WACD Plant Materials Center

## RED FLOWERING CURRANT

**Common Name:** Red Flowering Currant

**Scientific Name:** *Ribes sanguineum*

**Distribution:** Red Flowering Currant can be found growing throughout our region at low to mid-elevations

**Growth Habit:** Red Flowering Currant is a deciduous shrub that can grow to 12 feet tall and spread approximately 10 feet wide.

**Adaptability:** Red Flowering Currant is found predominantly on exposed, well-drained sites, where it grows very well. It can be found in shadier, damp sites

**Comments:** Red Flowering Currant is a prized species for many reasons. It has not always been that way though. Considerable effort was given to eradicating this plant in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is an alternate host for the fungal disease *White Pine Blister Rust* which was devastating Western White Pine in the inter-mountain region. The rationale for this was that eliminating the alternate hosts could prevent the disease from affecting these valuable timber trees. It became apparent however that breeding disease resistance into White Pines was a much better long-term solution for both species. Now Western White Pine is returning to the region in a big way and Red Flowering Currant can be used as both a conservation species and an attractive ornamental. It is an important species for upland soil stabilization in restoration projects. Its rose-pink flowers in February brighten any late-winter garden.

