

**Grossulariaceae (Currant Family) Key**  
**Key to species in Newfoundland and Labrador**  
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- 1a. Stems glabrous and unarmed, shrubs to 1 m tall. .... **2**
- 1b. Stems with 1-3 nodal spines, internodes with or without prickles, shrubs to 2 m tall. .... **3**
- 2a. Flowers in erect racemes; base of hypanthium stipitate-glandular; berries red and  
        bristly. .... ***Ribes glandulosum*** (skunk currant)
- 2b. Flowers in pendant racemes; base of hypanthium glabrous; berries red and  
        glabrous. .... ***Ribes triste*** (swamp red currant)
- 3a. Stems with 1-3 nodal spines and numerous internodal prickles; flowers in spreading to  
    pendant racemes; flowers saucer-shaped and salmon-coloured; berry red to purplish-  
    black, bristly. .... ***Ribes lacustre*** (bristly black currant)
- 3b. Stems with 1-3 nodal spines, often with internodal prickles; flowers solitary, or in corymbs  
    of 2-3 flowers, axillary and pendant; flowers campanulate and greenish-white, petals  
    connivent but not fused; berry green, reddish, to purplish-black, glabrous, with visible  
    venation (vertical lines) beneath the skin of immature fruit. .... **4**
- 4a. Stems usually armed only with 1-3 nodal spines, some stems also with internodal  
        prickles; flowers with stamens twice as long as the petals; fruit a green to purple  
        berry, 6-7 mm in diameter. Widespread across Newfoundland. ....  
        ..... ***Ribes hirtellum*** (swamp gooseberry)
- 4b. Stems armed with 1-3 nodal spines, plus numerous internodal prickles; flowers  
        have stamens about as long as the petals, fruit a greenish-purple, reddish, or  
        purplish-black berry; 7-15 cm in diameter. A report from the southwest coast of  
        Newfoundland has not very verified; flowering material is needed for confirmation.  
        ..... ***Ribes oxycanthoides*** (Canada gooseberry)

## ***Ribes* (Grossulariaceae) Comparison Charts**

<b><i>Ribes</i> Chart 1 (of 2): Shrubs lacking thorns or prickles</b>		
<b><i>Ribes</i> species:</b>	<b><i>R. glandulosum</i></b>	<b><i>R. triste</i></b>
	skunk currant	swamp red currant
<b>Stems</b>	<b>spines and prickles absent</b>	<b>spines and prickles absent</b>
<b>Leaf Blades</b>	3-8 cm long, <b>deeply 5–7-lobed; lobes narrowly ovate</b>	to 8.5 cm long; <b>shallowly 3–5-lobed; lobes broadly triangular</b>
<b>Inflorescence</b>	6–15 flowers, in <b>± erect racemes</b>	6–13 flowers, in <b>pendant racemes</b>
<b>Hypanthium</b>	<b>saucer-shaped</b> (crateriform), 0.7–1 mm across	<b>saucer-shaped</b> (crateriform), to 1 mm across
<b>Flowers</b>	<b>calyx lobes, white</b> , distinct, oblong-obovate; 1.5–2.5 mm long; <b>petals small, pink, cuneate</b> , alternating with calyx lobes; <b>ovary glandular-hairy</b>	<b>calyx lobes usually salmon-coloured to reddish-purple</b> , distinct to sl. overlapping, obovate, 2 mm long; <b>petals small, reddish purple, flabelliform</b> , alternating with calyx lobes; <b>ovary glabrous</b>
<b>Fruit</b>	<b>dark red, glandular bristly</b> ; 6–8 mm diam.; <b>fruiting racemes erect</b>	<b>red, glabrous</b> ; 6–10 mm diam.; <b>fruiting racemes pendant</b>

**Ribes Chart 2 (of 2): Shrubs armed with thorns or prickles**

<i>Ribes</i> species:	<i>R. lacustre</i>	<i>R. hirtellum</i>	<i>R. oxycanthoides</i>
	bristly black currant	swamp gooseberry	Canada gooseberry
<b>Stems</b>	<b>1–3 nodal spines</b> , 3–12 mm long; <b>internodal prickles usually dense</b>	<b>1–3 nodal spines</b> , 3–8 mm long, occas. none; <b>internodal prickles usually absent</b> ; occas. on older stems	<b>1–3+ nodal spines</b> , 2.2–13 mm long; <b>internodal prickles usually dense</b>
<b>Leaf Blades</b>	to 7.8 cm long; <b>deeply 3–7-lobed</b> , lobes ovate, coarsely toothed	to 2.5 cm long; <b>5–7-lobed</b> , lobes obovate, broadly toothed	blade to 4 cm long; <b>3–5-lobed</b> , lobes obovate, broadly toothed
<b>Inflorescence</b>	5–18+ flowers <b>in pendent to spreading racemes</b>	<b>1–3 flowers, axillary</b>	<b>1–3 flowers, axillary</b>
<b>Hypanthium</b>	<b>saucer-shaped</b> (crateriform), 1–1.5 mm across	<b>campanulate</b> , 2–3 mm long	<b>campanulate</b> ; 1.4–5.5+ mm long
<b>Flowers</b>	<b>calyx lobes greenish to dull reddish</b> ; somewhat overlapping; 1.5–3.5 mm long; <b>petals small, reddish; flabelliform</b> ; alternating with calyx lobes; stamens shorter than petals; <b>ovary glandular-hairy</b>	<b>calyx lobes greenish yellow, distinct</b> ; spreading or reflexed, 3–4 mm long; <b>petals erect, white, oblong to obovate</b> , 1.7–2.5 mm long; <b>stamens exserted, 2 times as long as petals</b> ; ovary glabrous	<b>calyx lobes greenish-white; distinct</b> ; spreading or reflexed, 1–6 mm long; <b>petals erect, white, oblong to obovate</b> ; 1–3.5 mm long; <b>stamens included, ± equal to the petals</b> ; ovary glabrous
<b>Fruit</b>	<b>purplish-black; glandular hairy</b> ; 4-8+ mm diam.; <b>fruiting racemes pendent</b>	<b>greenish to purplish, glabrous</b> ; 6–7 mm diam.	<b>reddish, greenish purple, or purplish-black, glabrous</b> ; 7–16 mm diam.