Black Currant – *Ribes nigrum*

Climate								*Soil*						
Min Optimal Temp (°F)	**Max Optimal Temp (°F)**	**Min Absolute Temp (°F)**	**Max Absolute Temp (°F)**	**Growing Degree Days (_°F base)**	**Chilling Hours (32-45 °F)**	**Min Rainfall (in/year)**	**Max Rainfall (in/year)**	**Min pH**	**Max pH**	**Optimal Soil Texture**	**Absolute Soil Texture**	**Optimal Soil Drainage**	**Absolute Soil Drainage**	**Soil Depth (in)**
-31 [a, e, m]	82 [a, e, m]	-40 [a, e, m]	88 [a, e, m]	N/A	N/A	42 [e, m]	N/A	4.0 [e, k, l]	7.0 [e, k, l]	clay loam, silty clay loam, sandy clay loam, loam, silt loam, sandy loam [c, e, l]	clay, sandy clay, silty clay, loamy sand, silt, sand [c, e, l]	well drained, moderately well drained [c, e, g]	somewhat excessively drained, somewhat poorly drained [c, e, g]	12 [b, f, h]

	Key Months for Crop Development and Thresholds											
	DEC	**JAN**	**FEB**	**MAR**	**APR**	**MAY**	**JUN**	**JUL**	**AUG**	**SEP**	**OCT**	**NOV**
Stage of growth *(under current conditions)*	Dormant	Dormant	Dormant	Dormant	Bud Break, Flowering [d]	Leaf Out, Flowering [d]	Fruit Development [d]	Fruit Ripening, Harvest [d]	Plant Growth [d]	Plant Growth [d]	Plant Growth [d]	Leaf Drop [d]

Key Cultivars: [d]

Pure black currant (*Ribes nigrum*) is susceptible to white pine blister rust (WPBR), a devastating fungal disease for our native white pines. Efforts were made to develop WPBR resistant varieties, but early attempts produced resistant varieties with poor fruit quality. The latest varieties below are WPBR resistant, high yielding, and retain good fruit quality.

Early season (early July)

- 'Nicola' (earliest bearing, high yielding)
- 'Stikine'

Mid-season (mid-July)

- 'Cheakamus' (high yielding, high quality juice)
- 'Whistler' (high yielding)
- 'Blackcomb' (high yielding, high quality juice)

Late season (late July)

- 'Tofino'

Climate Risk Notes: [d, i, j]

Black currants need consistent precipitation or irrigation (i.e., 1 inch per week) from flowering until harvest. Inadequate soil moisture can lead to significant drops in yield.

Black currants have a shallow root system compared to other woody perennials. A weed-free zone should be maintained around the plants from bud break to late July when the shoots stop growing.

Black currants are shade tolerant to a point, and some shade may reduce sun scald in regions exposed to intense sunlight during the summer. However, planting black currants in an understory can make it more difficult or impossible to machine harvest. In addition, understory plantings typically have suffer from higher humidity which can increase the risk of fungal diseases and herbivory.

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