Native Plant of the Month

Red Flowering Currant
Ribes sanguineum

- “Sanguineum” means “blood-red” in Latin, referring to the deep red flowers that arrive in early spring.
- Migratory hummingbirds depend on these early profuse flowers for nectar.
- The berries are edible though not considered a favorite of native people. However, wildlife of all kinds consume them including grouse, pheasants, robins, waxwings, foxes, coyotes, raccoons, and others.
- Elk and deer browse on the twigs and foliage.

Landscape Value

A superb landscape plant, red flowering currant is considered a specimen plant throughout North American and European gardens, where it was introduced in early 1800’s. Plant en masse, as a focal point or as part of naturalized woodland forest planting.

Adaptable to sun and part shade, this plant prefers somewhat drier soils. Plant with evergreen huckleberry, salal, oceanspray, sword fern, deer fern, coastal strawberry, and bleeding heart for year-round interest.

Text by Heidi Bohan
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