

Gooseberry

Ribes uva-crispa · Gooseberry family

DIFFICULTY Easy

TYPE Perennial shrub

MATURITY 2–3 years to full production



SUN
Full–part sun



WATER
Regular



SOIL PH
6.0–6.8



SPACING
1–1.5m



DEPTH
as per pot

01 Thorny but reliable

Gooseberry bushes are thorny but very reliable croppers in cooler climates, tolerating a wider range of conditions than many other berries.

02 Planting

METHOD	Plant bare-root or potted bushes.
SOIL	Rich, well-drained, high organic matter.
TIMING	Plant in winter while dormant.

Planting timing varies significantly by Australian climate zone. Set your zone above (or use the Find My Climate Zone tool) for guidance tailored to your own area.

04 Problems

- **Gooseberry sawfly** — larvae can strip leaves quickly; monitor and hand-pick.
- **Powdery mildew** — improve airflow through pruning.
- **Birds** — net thoroughly.
- **Poor fruiting in hot climates** — provide some afternoon shade in warmer zones.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY

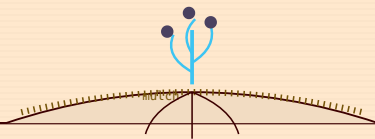
Comfrey

AVOID NEARBY

Very hot, exposed positions

ROTATION NOTE

Not applicable — long-lived perennial shrub.



mulched bed, shallow roots

03 Growing care

- Water regularly, especially through fruit development.
- Prune in winter to an open, airy shape for good airflow.
- Mulch to retain soil moisture.
- Net as fruit ripens against birds.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Firm and full-sized; can be picked slightly under-ripe for cooking, or fully ripe for eating fresh.
METHOD	Pick carefully by hand — mind the thorns.
CURING	None needed.
STORAGE	Fridge, about a week; freezes well.
PRESERVING	See Freezing Produce (freezing a berry glut) or Canning & Bottling (jams and preserves) for ways to keep a harvest surplus.