

# ***Ribes oxycanthoides* L. var. *irriguum* (Dougl.)**

Jancz

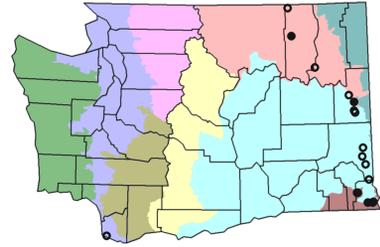
synonym: *Ribes irriguum* Douglas

Idaho gooseberry

Grossulariaceae - currant family

status: State Threatened, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G5T4 / S2



**General Description:** Adapted from Sinnott (1985): Spiny medium shrub, 0.75-1.5 m tall, erect to spreading, hairy when young, becoming nearly hairless with age. Twigs arching, gray to straw-colored, internodal bristles absent or few, nodal spines 0-2 (3). Leaf bases heart-shaped to truncate; blade often broader than long, 20-30 x 25-40 mm, deeply 3-5 lobed, the lobes with rounded teeth. Both leaf surfaces with long, soft, straight hairs and glands; the lower surface also feltlike. Petioles 5-25 mm long.

**Floral Characteristics:** Inflorescence of 1-4 flowers; peduncles 6-15 mm long, hairy with glandular and eglandular hairs. Pedicels 3-6 mm, hairless. Calyx tube 2.5-4 x 2.5-4 mm, hairless, with 5 spreading lobes 4.5-5.5 mm long. Petals 5, white, 3-3.5 mm long. Filaments 2.5-3.5 mm; style divided, 6.5-8 mm. Flowers May to June.

**Fruits:** Globose berries, smooth, deep bluish purple, 1-1.3 cm long. Fruits June to July.

**Identification Tips:** *Ribes oxycanthoides* var. *irriguum* differs from the other subspecies by having a broad calyx tube with lobes that are longer than the tube, and a long glandular peduncle.

**Range:** Northcentral ID, western MT, B.C., OR, and WA. A historical record from Clark Co., WA is suspect, given the significant disjunction from all other known locations of the taxon.

**Habitat/Ecology:** Along streams, meadow openings associated with streams, and slopes of moist to dry canyons, from 550 to 1500 m (1850-5000 ft). It is typically associated with conifers, including ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), and grand fir (*Abies grandis*) on sites with partial rather than total shade. Other associated plants include serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), hawthorn (*Crataegus douglasii*), wax currant (*Ribes cereum*), ninebark (*Physocarpus malvaceus*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*), Woods' rose (*Rosa woodsii*), Geyer's sedge (*Carex geyeri*), starry false lily-of-the-valley (*Maianthemum stellatum*), red baneberry (*Actaea rubra*), bluegrass (*Poa compressa*, *P. palustris*).

**Comments:** There are only a few extant populations in the state and the species has a small global distribution. It is also rare in B.C., OR, and MT.

**References:** Sinnott 1985.

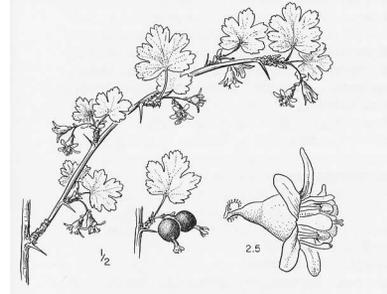


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