

40406 to 40496—Continued.

40416 and 40417. *RIBES ALPINUM* L.

Alpine currant.

40416. "7375."

"A deciduous unarmed shrub, reaching in gardens 6 to 9 feet in height and as much or more in diameter, of dense, close habit; young twigs shining, and at first more or less glandular. Leaves broadly ovate or roundish, 3 and sometimes 5 lobed, the lobes coarsely toothed, the base straight or heart shaped, with five radiating veins; upper surface with scattered bristly hairs, the longer one usually shining and more or less hairy on the veins; one-half to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long and wide; stalk glandular-downy, one-fourth to one-half inch long. Flowers unisexual, the sexes nearly always on separate plants, produced in the axils of bracts longer than the flower stalk, greenish yellow; the males on small, erect, glandular racemes 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, the females fewer and on racemes half as long. Currants red, not palatable. Native of the northern latitudes of the Old World, including England and Scotland. The largest specimens I know of form part of the old hedge on the east front terrace of the old hall at Troutbeck; according to a letter at Kew they are treelike, 15 feet high, and not less than 300 years old. Although this currant has no special beauty of flower or fruit, it makes a very neat and pleasing shrub, admirable for shady places. Occasionally plants with perfect flowers may be found." (*W. J. Bean, Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles, vol. 2, p. 397.*)

40417. "7375 B." Var. *sterile*.

"The so-called var. *sterile* appears to be merely the normal male-flowered plant. None of the forms of *R. alpinum* need a rich soil. They retain the neat, compact habit, which is their greatest merit, in rather poor soil. The yellow-leaved forms color best in full sun." (*W. J. Bean, Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles, vol. 2, p. 398.*)

For further description, see S. P. I. No. 40416.

40418. *RIBES AMERICANUM* Miller.

Currant.

"7345."

"This shrub is unarmed, and closely allied to the common black currant, which it resembles in having 3-lobed or 5-lobed leaves, with a coarse irregular toothing and a deeply heart-shaped base, and in possessing the same heavy odor, due to yellowish glands on the lower surface. The fruit also is black. The American species, however, is quite distinct in the flowers; these are nearly twice as long, more tapering and funnel shaped, and yellow. Moreover, the bract from the axil of which each flower springs on the raceme is longer than the stalk. (In *R. nigrum* it is small and much shorter than the flower stalks.) Native of eastern North America from New Brunswick to Virginia, Kentucky, etc.; introduced in 1729. As a garden shrub, the only quality which recommends this currant is that its foliage becomes suffused with brilliant hues of crimson and yellow in autumn. For this quality it is sold in nurseries, often as *R. missouriense*—wrongly, for the true plant of that name is a gooseberry with spiny branches." (*W. J. Bean, Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles, vol. 2, p. 398.*)