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Ribes rotundifolium

[Synonyms : *Grossularia rotundifolia*, *Ribes stamineum*, *Ribes triflorum*]

APPALACHIAN GOOSEBERRY is a deciduous shrub. Native to north-eastern United States, it has greenish or reddish tinted, cream flowers with long stamens, and clusters of small edible, purplish-black berries.

It is also known as Eastern gooseberry, Eastern wild gooseberry, Purple gooseberry, Purple sage gooseberry, Round leaved gooseberry, Smooth gooseberry, Wild currant, and Wild gooseberry.

In the USA this shrub is considered to be of special concern in the wild in the State of Connecticut. But the State of Michigan declares all *Ribes* plants to be noxious weeds.

Rotundifolium is Latin *rotunda* (round, circular) and *-folia* (leaved) components meaning 'rounded-leaved'.

According to some authorities the North American Cherokee Indians processed the fruit for Winter food. The Cherokee tribe have also employed a plant infusion in treatments for both the nervous system and measles.

On the other hand the Iroquois are reported to have used a bark decoction for divination and fortune telling.

The fruit can be eaten raw or cooked.

Medicinally, local herbalists have included a bark infusion in remedies for diarrhoea and measles and have given a leaf infusion as a calming sedative.