

Botanical Name: Ribes viburnifolium

Common Name: Evergreen currant

Type of Plant: dicot: subshrub Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape highly variable; a loosely constructed, open plant, with slender stems erect to arching or even prostrate, forming a loose ground cover if mass-planted

Height 1' - 3' (to 6') Spread equal or more Growth Rate moderate

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full or partial sun near coast; prefers partial sun or full shade at inland locations

Soil tolerates most except highly alkaline desert soils

Hardiness hardy (zones 8,9,14-24): thrives in most low-elevation locals with marine-influenced climate

Morphology:

Leaves pinnate, alternate, on reddish stems; oval to nearly round, rich dark green, leathery; 1"-1 ½" long, with margins smooth to slightly toothed; fragrant when crushed

Flowers maroon to rose-red, insignificant, in small axillary racemes; February - April

Fruit a berry; round, red when ripe, 1/4" diameter

Propagation: softwood or semi-hardwood cuttings

Usage: an excellent groundcover or low filler for dry shaded habitats; good for use under oaks or other large trees where excessive watering is undesirable; valued for dark green foliage and soil stabilization

Landscape Care:

Watering periodic deep soakings preferred; can tolerate regular garden watering if drainage is good

Fertilizing as needed; check for chlorosis when heavily irrigated

Pruning little is required; head back periodically to promote a lower, denser form

Pests/Diseases relatively free; spider mites near the coast

Special Conditions prostrate stems will take root in moist soils

Origin: Catalina Island Family: Saxifragaceae