

Barberry look alike

Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) and common barberry (*Berberis vulgaris*) may be confused with gooseberries (*Ribes spp.*), especially in the winter, since gooseberries are also shrubs with spines along their stems.

During the growing season, **leaf size and shape** makes it easy to differentiate these species. Gooseberries have 3+ lobes per leaf and barberries have unlobed leaves.

During the winter, one trick to differentiate these plants is to peel the outer layer of the bark. The **inner bark of barberry is fluorescent yellow!**



Barberry leaves (above) are simple and unlobed. Gooseberry leaves are simple but have 3+ lobes (below).



Fluorescent yellow inner bark of barberry