

Horseradish (*Armoracia rusticana*) is a vigorous perennial, and blooms May to June. The roots are used to make a wonderful spicy condiment, an essential for prime rib. Horseradish prefers a sunny location in rich, moist, well-drained soils.

Planting

Horseradish needs a good soil mix, with composted manure and good garden soil. Dig the hole twice as wide and as deep as the pot. If you're starting with roots of horseradish, plant them three inches deep and space two to three feet apart in late winter or early spring.

Set the plant in the hole so that it is slightly above the existing soil level. Amend the soil you've removed from the hole with Northwest Best Soil Builder or other compost and Al's Transplant Fertilizer 4-3-3. Use this amended soil to backfill around the plant. After planting, make sure you water it in. Then in a month, apply Al's Slow Release Fertilizer 10-4-8 around the perimeter of the plant.

Watering

Regular watering is required through the summertime. Continue to water regularly until plant is established.

Harvesting

The first year – **Do not harvest** – allow the plants to grow and establish in the ground.

The second year – **harvest in the fall** - after a frost has killed off the tops.

In the fall, the plants will have died back. Now is the time to dig full grown roots! It's best to dig just a few outside roots at a time; then you'll have your horseradish fresh and hot. Then, **in the spring you can harvest the roots again**. Wash and store roots in perforated plastic bags between 32°-38°F and will keep for several months. Roots are peeled, grated, and mixed with vinegar or cream.