

Planting

Rhubarb prefers a sunny location with deep, rich, well-drained soil. Partial shade, or half day sun locations are suitable, too. Dig a hole about one foot deep by two foot wide. Add a mixture of ½ composted manure (or organic compost) and ½ good garden soil into the hole. Do not use fresh manure because this will burn your plant. Rhubarb needs space to grow! Plant the crowns about four feet apart and with the top of the crown 2 inches above the soil. Rhubarb does well in raised beds or hills because of the excellent drainage. It's recommended to plant two hills of rhubarb so you always have at least one plant at peak production.

Mulching, Fertilizing, & Watering

In spring, apply an all-purpose slow release, organic fertilizer. Regular watering is required through the summertime. Deep soaks are best to effectively water the roots. In late fall, apply composted manure and mulch around the base of each plant. **Do not cover the crowns as this will promote rotting.**

Harvesting

1st year – Do not Harvest – allow plants to grow and establish

2nd year – Harvest once, lightly

3rd year – Harvest all season long

Begin Harvesting in Late April - Early May. Do not Over-Harvest! Only harvest 1/3rd of the foliage at a time so your plant can continue to grow and store energy. Harvest stalks that are at least 8-10" long. Mature plants' stalks may be 12-18" long at harvest time. If the stalks become too thin, stop harvesting until the plant is stronger, and stalks are thicker. Cut or twist the stalks from the crown. Only eat the Stalks! The leaves are toxic and should be thrown into the compost bin. The stalks can be stored in a refrigerator for up to 2 weeks.

Stop Harvesting in Late June - Early July. Leave some foliage on your plant so that it can store energy to last thru the winter.

Dividing

Rhubarb can be divided every 4 to 6 years in late fall. Carefully dig up the crown and divide it into pieces using a sharp knife. Each crown piece needs 2 or 3 buds and as many roots as possible. Remove any damaged or dead spots and plant each piece with the buds facing upwards with the top of the crown 2 inches above the soil. Water in and apply mulch around the base of each plant to insulate the roots thru the winter. Do not cover the crown with mulch in wet winter areas.