



Rhubarb Growing Information

Planting

Plant rhubarb in late winter or early spring. Amend soil with compost at planting time to ensure soil is rich and well drained. Place the plant with the crown bud 2 inches below the soil. Space plants 3-4 feet apart. Irrigate regularly when the active top growth indicates that shoots are growing.

Fertilize

Rhubarb plants are heavy feeders and will benefit greatly if two to four inches of compost is added to the soil prior to its growth cycle in the spring. A yearly application of a natural fertilizer such as Down to Earth Vegetable Garden in the early spring is also helpful in ensuring optimum growth.

Harvest

Plants should grow a full two seasons before harvesting for best results. Harvest stalks that are 12-18 inches long. Harvest stalks by grasping near base and pulling sideways and outward, cutting with a knife will leave a stub that could decay. Never remove all leaves from a single plant. Stop harvesting when slender leaf stalks appear. By the third year, the harvest period is typically 8-10 weeks.

The leaves of the plant are poisonous, so make sure to only eat the stalks.

Cut out any blossom stalks that appear.

Dividing

To keep your rhubarb plants thriving for many years, they can be divided every 5 years or so. A good sign that your rhubarb needs divided is if your stalks are thin or small. Dividing can be done either in the spring before growth starts or in the fall.