



Horseradish Growing Information

Planting

Horseradish grows best in full sun but can tolerate partial shade. If planting in the ground, loosen soil down about 12" and amend with compost. Loose, fertile soil is important to grow nice, large horseradish roots. Backfill the hole and plant the roots about 2-4 inches from the surface of the soil. Horseradish should be planted at a 45 degree angle so that the roots can radiate out beneath the soil as much as possible. The thinner portion of the root should be facing down.

Once planted in the ground, it can be difficult to eradicate horseradish roots. If this is a concern, planting horseradish in a container is a viable approach. If planting in a container, make sure that it has drainage holes and is deep enough that it will allow the horseradish roots to grow at least 24" deep. When planting multiple roots, make sure to space them at least 18" apart.

Harvesting

Horseradish should not be harvested in its first year being planted so that it can become established.

Horseradish grows the most during late summer and early autumn. For this reason, delay fall harvest until late October or early November, or just before the ground freezes.

Harvest by loosening the soil around the base of the plant with a shovel or garden fork. Then gently pull out the root from the ground or container. Any pieces of root that are left in the ground or container will be viable and continue to grow during the next growing season.

Another technique for harvesting horseradish without damaging the plant is to cut off just a portion of the root. This is possible because horseradish plants have a deep taproot. Cutting off a piece will not harm the plant.

Once harvested, you can store horseradish in a cool, dry place for several months. For longer storage, it is recommended to wrap the roots in damp paper towels and store them in the refrigerator.

To enjoy horseradish's fresh flavor for even longer, you can also freeze it. Simply grate the root and place it in a freezer-safe container. Horseradish will keep its pungent taste for up to 6 months when frozen.