



Caring For Rhubarb



Choosing a Site:

A deep, rich, well drained sandy loam is ideal for rhubarb production. A slight to medium acid soil is best. Due to rhubarb's high water requirement, the soil needs to have plenty of organic matter to help hold moisture for growing plants.

Planting:

Rhubarb crowns need to be planted very shallow. At least 1/4 to 1/3 of the crown surface should be above ground level. If the bud itself is below ground it may rot. Space plants 3-4 feet apart. Fertilizer should be applied in the mid to late spring. Fertilizers used should be well balanced, slow release fertilizers and/or composted or aged manure.

Harvest:

Wait until the second year after planting to harvest your first stalks. Pull the stalks by grasping the stalk down near the crown. A slight twist and side pull loosens the stalk without breaking or injuring the primary bud. It's important to avoid bud damage as each bud will produce several stalks. Remove any flower stalks as quickly as they form as they weaken the plant.

VARIETY	DESCRIPTION	USE
Crimson Cherry	Excellent flavor. Fleshy but not tough or stringy; sweet yet agreeably tart. Plump stalks to 24", red inside and out. Heavy yield.	Good for sauces, pies, canning and freezing
Victoria	Heirloom variety with superior tart flavor. Stalks are large green with a red base. Juicy and tender. Does not get woody. Very productive.	Good for sauces, pies, canning and freezing