



Rhubarb Planting Guide

About Rhubarb

While most gardeners prefer to grow rhubarb as an annual, it can be grown perennially in some regions. It's great as an ingredient whether you're cooking or baking. This plant offers tall, tender and sweet stalks with gorgeous color! While radish stalks are edible, it is important to note that the leaves are poisonous and should not be consumed.

When to Plant

Rhubarb is a cool-weather perennial that can live for 10-15+ years in cooler regions. It does best when average temperatures are below 70-75 degrees F in the summer and falls below 40 degrees F in the winter. Sow seeds 6-8 weeks before last frost date and transplant out into the garden about 2 weeks before last frost.

Where to Plant

Grow rhubarb in full sun, in rich, lightly moist soil. In hot regions, plant rhubarb where it will get some protection from the hot afternoon sun. Rhubarb will not thrive in a soggy location, where it will be susceptible to root rot.

How to Plant

Starting indoors, soak seeds for a minimum of 2 hours before planting. Sow 2 seeds per 2-3" pot. Cover seed 1/4" deep and keep evenly watered. Thin to 1 per pot. Transplant to an area amended with compost or well rotted manure and plenty of organic matter.

Caring for Rhubarb

While seedlings are growing indoors, keep room temperature around 70 degrees F. If temperature drops below often, you may need an additional heat source, like a mat or heating table. Keep watered evenly. After transplanting, deep soak plants every 7-10 days. Rhubarb is ready when the stalks of the leaves reach about 10". To harvest, cut off the stalks with a knife or gently pull stalk and bend it until it breaks. Make sure you leave some of the stalk to ensure further growth. Newly planted rhubarb should not be fully harvested to ensure the plant can become firmly established in your garden.