

Rhubarb

Rhubarb is a cool season, perennial plant that is winter hardy. Rhubarb can remain productive for ten years.

Sun exposure: Loves the sun but hates the heat of summer

Soil: Grows best on fertile, well-drained soil that is high in organic matter. Best yields are attained at a pH of 6.0-6.8.

Planting: Plant in early spring as soon as the soil thaws. Dig a large hole and add some peat moss to the soil to be placed around the roots. Good drainage is essential. Raised beds protect against rotting of the crowns.

Fertilizing: Rhubarb responds well to fertilizers, one cup of a 5-10-10 fertilizer each spring can be applied when growth appears

Harvesting: During the first season DO NOT pick the stalks; the leaves are needed to nourish the plant. When ready to harvest in year two, the first step is to cut the stalks at the soil line. You may harvest the whole plant or individual stalks over a 4-6 week period.