



955 Benton Ave., Winslow, ME 04901 • Phone: 1-877-564-6697 • Fax: 1-800-738-6314
Email: service@johnnyseeds.com • Web Site: Johnnyseeds.com

RHUBARB (*Rheum rhabarbarum*)

Please remove your hardy rhubarb crowns from their box as soon as possible. We recommend transplanting outside as soon as possible. If you are not able to transplant them outside right away, store in a cool location (32–40°F/0–4°C), and keep the crowns and any roots damp.

LIFE CYCLE: Perennial in Zones 4–8.

PLANTING: Plant crowns in the early spring in well-drained, fertile soil with a pH of 6.0–6.8. Choose a location in full sun. Set crowns 1 inch deep, bud side up, 3 feet apart in the row with 5 feet between rows. Firmly tamp down soil and water to prevent dry pockets around the crowns.

FERTILIZATION: Rhubarb is a heavy feeder and will yield better when given annual spring applications of compost or 1 cup of a balanced fertilizer per plant.

WEED CONTROL: Because rhubarb plantings last for several years, it is important to select a weed-free site during planting and to maintain it. Use shallow cultivation for initial weed control. After the plants are established a mulch of hay, straw, or leaves can be applied to regulate moisture and suppress weeds.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Only the stalks of the rhubarb plant are edible. Do not eat the leaves as they are poisonous. Do not harvest stalks after the plants have been frosted in the fall, as they can also make you sick after this point.

HARVEST: Do not harvest the first year. In the second year, harvest lightly, a few stalks (botanically known as petioles) per plant. In subsequent years all stalks 1 inch or more in diameter may be harvested for 6–8 weeks. The harvest period is from May to June. Some harvesting in fall is acceptable. Leave smaller stalks to make food for the crown and next year's production. Harvest by snapping or cutting the stalks at the base. Remove seed stalks to encourage additional stalk production.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Divide crowns after 3–5 years to maintain stalk size and production. A well-maintained patch will last 10–15 years or longer.