

## Crop name- Rhubarb

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**History** - Rhubarb also referred to as "vegetable rhubarb," "In the 17th century, it was brought to Europe, where it became well-liked as a cuisine ingredient. Rhubarb was employed as a laxative in ancient Chinese medicine before being included into foods, particularly desserts and jams. Due to its sour flavor, it was a popular component to desserts, especially when coupled with sugar. Rhubarb is now consumed all over the world in a wide range of culinary preparations, but it's crucial to remember that the plant's leaves are poisonous and should never be eaten. In cooking and baking, just the edible stalks are employed.

**Origin place**- China and Tibet

**Varieties**-

- ✓ Victoria Rhubarb
- ✓ Canada Red
- ✓ Cherry Red
- ✓ MacDonald
- ✓ German Wine
- ✓ Raspberry Red
- ✓ Timperley Early

**Climate** -The ideal climate for rhubarb is chilly to temperate, with cold winters and mild to moderate summers. USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) hardiness zones 3 to 8 are frequently used to cultivate it successfully.

**Soil:** Rhubarb thrives in well-drained, loamy soils with a pH range of 6.0 to 6.8, which is slightly acidic to neutral.

**Planting Depth and Spacing:**

Rhubarb crowns, which are the roots, should be planted about 2 inches (5 cm) below the soil's surface. Ensure that the buds are facing up.

**Space** rhubarb plants approximately 3 to 4 feet (90 cm to 120 cm) apart to allow for their large growth.

**Watering:** Rhubarb needs constant hydration, but overly wet conditions might lead to root rot. When the soil starts to feel dry, water it; do not overwater.

**Winter Chilling:** To break dormancy and encourage robust spring growth, rhubarb

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plants benefit from a period of winter chilling (temperatures below 40°F or 4°C).

**Mulching:** Mulching the area surrounding rhubarb plants can help retain moisture, manage weeds, and adjust the soil's temperature.

In temperate regions with cool summers and chilly winters, rhubarb grows well. It favors soils that are rich, well-drained, and between pH 6.0 and 6.8.

**Sowing Time-** Usually, crown division or root division are used to propagate rhubarb. Rhubarb crowns should be planted in the spring, from March to April.

**Seed Rate-** Since rhubarb doesn't grow true from seed, it is usually propagated using crowns or divisions rather than seeds. This means that when a plant is produced from seed, the traits of the parent plant may not be reliably passed on to the offspring. So rather than starting from seeds, rhubarb is typically grown from rhubarb crowns or root divisions.

**Manure and Fertilizers-** Rhubarb plants benefit from the addition of organic matter and balanced fertilization to ensure healthy growth and a bountiful harvest. Here are some guidelines for using manure and fertilizer in the production of rhubarb:

**Organic Matter (Manure):** Well-rotted compost or aged manure can be beneficial when preparing the soil for rhubarb. They improve soil structure, moisture

retention, and nutrient content. Apply compost or manure to the planting area before planting rhubarb or as a top dressing in the spring. Avoid using fresh manure, as it can be too strong and may burn the rhubarb plants.

**Balanced Fertilizer:** Fertilizing rhubarb using a fertilizer that has an equal amount of nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K) is beneficial.

An NPK ratio of 10-10-10 or 12-12-12 can be used to apply a balanced granular fertilizer in the early spring when the plants begin to emerge. For the right application rate, refer to the packaging directions.

**Irrigation-** Regular watering is necessary for rhubarb, especially during dry seasons. Make sure the ground is regularly damp but not soggy.

**Weeding-** Keeping weeds out of the rhubarb bed will lessen competition for moisture and nutrients.

During the growing season, weeding should be done often. While rhubarb first starts to sprout out of the ground in the early spring and while it is actively growing in the late spring, it is extremely important.

**Method-** use a hand weeder or a hoe to remove weeds. Hand weeding is often o

**Harvesting Yield-**

A mature plant can yield up to 4-6 pounds of stalks per year.

## **Plant Protection-**

**Pest control:** Rhubarb is susceptible to pests such as aphids and snails. Implement integrated pest management practices to control these pests. And you can use insecticidal soap or neem oil to control aphids. For slugs and snails, consider using traps, diatomaceous earth, or beer traps to keep them away from your plants.

**Prevention:** Rhubarb can be susceptible to diseases like crown rot and leaf spot. To prevent these issues, avoid planting in waterlogged soil and ensure good drainage. Proper spacing between plants helps improve air circulation, reducing the risk of fungal diseases.

**Winter Protection:** . The crowns of rhubarb can benefit from protection in areas with hard winters. Apply a layer of mulch, straw, or compost around the plant's base after the first frost to protect it from the elements. To protect the plant from harsh cold, you can also wrap it in burlap or use a rhubarb forcer that is specifically made for the purpose.

**Rodent Deterrence:** Protect rhubarb crowns from rodents like mice and voles, which may chew on the roots during the winter. Placing wire mesh or hardware cloth around the base of the plant can deter these pests.

**Frost Protection:** Rhubarb is sensitive to frost in the spring. If you expect a late frost

after the rhubarb has started sprouting, cover the young shoots with a row cover or old blankets to protect them from frost damage.

