

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### DO I HARVEST THE FOILAGE ALONG WITH THE STALKS?

No. Only harvest and use the Rhubarb stalks. The leaves and roots are actually poisonous, due to the oxalic acid they contain.

### HOW DO I KNOW RHUBARB IS READY TO HARVEST?

Rhubarb stalks are ready when they are between 1/2 inch and 1 inch wide. They should be quite firm and show an even dark pinkish or maroon color. It is recommended to harvest beginning the second season and only lightly then.

### WHAT SHOULD BE DONE WITH THE SUMMER FLOWERS?

The plants may begin to form flower stalks in midsummer as a result of warm, long days. Remove these flower stalks as soon as they appear. Letting them fully form will shunt nutrients away from the roots and in the unwanted seed heads.

### DO I CUT THE STALKS OFF FROM THE BASE OR ROOTS?

No. You want to harvest the stalks by gently twisting it as close as possible to the base of the plant. Twisting and pulling from the crown is optimal to remove the most plant and invigorates the roots to produce more. Harvest up to 1/3 of stems from one plant at any one picking.

### WHAT ARE SOME COMMON USES?

It is the ultimate pie ingredient. In early spring, stems offer the most flavor and tenderness and are ideal for pies. Reserve later harvested stems for stewing, sauces, or jams.

## FIRST THINGS FIRST...

When your plant arrives from Roberta's, remove from the shipping box immediately. Keep bare roots inside packing material until ready to plant into ground or container. Put in a cool, protected area and plant as soon as possible.

For extended storage time, place in refrigerator for up to 3 weeks.

When ready to plant, do the job as early in the day as possible to avoid extreme soil temperatures that prevent proper water uptake from the roots. Water them in well and whisper a few words of wisdom.

Take your gardening experience to new heights by visiting Roberta's Unique Gardens in our brand shop on QVC.com. Our goal is to enhance your gardening enjoyment by providing you with top quality, leading edge perennials and annuals that are suitable for your garden and home with the best service imaginable.

Roberta's is a 4th generation family owned business and has been one of the leading commercial exhibitors at flower and garden shows for over 50 years in the U.S and abroad. We search the globe to find easy-to-grow plants that are unique in themselves or their variety making them nearly impossible to find elsewhere. Our passion and commitment continually asks the question, "What makes a better, unsurpassed, and more beautiful flower to behold?"

Working with growers and breeders from all over the world, Roberta's is able to bring you hard-to-find plants and new species that will be sweethearts for years to come. Our alliance with QVC since the late 1990's will continue to transform your garden into the garden of your dreams. "Partnering with QVC, we share a common vision that puts the customer at the top of the list!"

Thank you for bringing us into your home,

Eric, Kevin, and Koort Wallien

## Roberta's Gardens

### Planting and Growing Guide



**Rheum rhabarbarum**  
(Rhubarb Crimson Red)



1-800-428-9726

Monday—Friday 8:30 am—4:30 pm EST

Thank you

For bringing us into your home

[www.robertasinc.com](http://www.robertasinc.com)

## QUICK REFERENCE PLANTING GUIDE

LIGHT/SUN EXPOSURE:	Full Sun to Partial Shade
USDA	
HARINNESS ZONES:	3 to 8
PLANTING DISTANCE:	20-24 inches apart
MATURE HEIGHT/SPREAD:	24 inches tall and wide
BLOOM TIME:	Summer Harvest- 2nd yr.
PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS:	Remove plastic bag and/or sleeve from around bare roots. Transplant into the garden as soon as the evening temperatures stay above 40F.
(soil preparation, depth, which end is up, etc.)	

## PLANTING GUIDE

1  
STEP

Keep inside packing material until ready to plant into ground or container. Put in a cool, protected area and plant as soon as possible. For extended storage time, place in refrigerator for up to 3 weeks.

2  
STEP

Transplant into the garden as soon as the ground is thawed. Place the crowns deep enough so that they are covered with 2 inches of soil. Fill with soil and pack in firmly covering entire root zone. Water thoroughly.

3  
STEP

Rather than in the garden you may re-pot into large containers. Re pot the plants into at large enough containers which will be able to hold at least 40 liters of soil and compost. Rhubarb has a large root system but a shallow one, so Rhubarb will do ok in pots.

4  
STEP

Planted now they will produce high yields in the summer for many years. It's recommended not to harvest and eat Rhubarb until the second season.

## CONTINUING CARE

### SHELF LIFE

Plant into garden as soon as the ground has warmed to 50F.

### PLANT PREPARATION

Remove plastic bag and sleeve from around bare-roots. Discard any packing material clinging to the leaves or soil. Pull away any yellow or brown leaves that may have occurred during transit. If you can not plant it into garden or larger pot within a few days, make sure it stays in a cool, dry area until able to be planted.

### SOIL

Grow in a well-drained, fertile soil. Amend clay type soils with compost, potting mix, or organic matter. Prefers slightly acidic.

### POTTED PLANTS

Rather than in the garden you may re-pot into large containers. Repot the plants into very large pots as Rhubarb has a large root system. The pots need to hold at least 40 liters of compost

### GARDEN PREPARATION

They like a well drained soil that has some organic matter in it.

### PLANTING DISTANCE

Space the plants 20-24 inches apart.

### PLANTING HEIGHT AND WIDTH

They will grow to 24 inches tall and wide.

### WATER

Water them thoroughly. Keep top few inches of soil moist in summer. They prefer average to moderate water through the season.

### FERTILIZER

Beginning the second year, apply twice yearly. This helps promote new growth and production from year to year. For best results, use a well balanced plant food once in early spring after you have cut back previous year's fern growth. Apply again as soon as harvest is complete. Roberta's Flower Magic Plant Food (M7503) works exceptionally well. Also, Roberta's Spray and Flourish (M26045) micronutrients work extremely well. Apply twice yearly too.

## TEMPERATURE ZONES 3 to 8

They're hardy down to a minus 30 degrees below 0 when planted in the ground.

### HARVEST

Beginning in the 2nd season harvest lightly and in the first 2 weeks of the season, removing only a few stalks from each plant. From the 3rd season on, harvest stems freely. To ensure continued production, take care not to remove more than 1/3 to 1/2 the stalks from any one plant during any one harvest.

### PRUNING AND WINTER DORMANCY

Trim foliage to the ground when it dies back naturally in late summer or fall. They're very hardy and they'll return the next season.

## ADDITIONAL REFERENCE

Bury deep enough to cover crowns with 2 inches of soil



Rhubarb ready for harvesting