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Rhubarb Care

Plant in well-drained soil with plenty of compost, in a sunny spot, and space plants 36 inches apart.

Give roots time to establish; resist harvesting stalks for at least 1 year after planting. In 2nd year a few stalks can be harvested. Thereafter, stalks can be taken either all at once or over the growing season, leaving a few of the lower leaves to feed the roots.

Harvest stalks in early spring/summer by either twisting the stalk from the plant's crown or cutting it just above ground level.

Rhubarb leaves contain toxic oxalic acid and should be kept out of reach of children and grazing animals. The leaves can be composted without any danger.

Rhubarb can live for 15 years or more with little care, but plants benefit from a top dressing of compost in fall and occasional division of the roots. If a seed stalk does appear, remove it so the plant can focus its energy elsewhere.

