

HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR RHUBARB



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I love to live in the garden!

I like full sun, and good drainage—but not sandy soil. I like a good winter chill, and some warm summer days. I like to have a good drink of water when it is hot—so don't forget about me! If you see me start to set seeds, cut those off. Sometimes I forget that I am supposed to make stalks and not seeds. You can give me some high nitrogen fertilizer when the ground is starting to thaw out to get me going in the Spring.

How much can I give for your pies and preserves?

I am a two year old plant—so you can harvest about half of my stalks this year. Just grab the stalk at the base and give a gentle twist—or trim with shears. Remember don't eat my leaves! Yuck!

Always leave me with a few stalks so I don't die.

Then what?

At the end of summer I will die back (lose my foliage). Just pull off the dead leaves and stalks and throw some mulch (chips, bark, compost—whatever is handy) on me to winter me over. Every 4 years you may want to divide me up. Just dig up my roots in the fall and split some plants off for you or a friend, and plant part of me back.

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