



RHUBARB

for the Home Garden and Grower



Varieties	Season	Yield	Plant Height & Spread	Stalk Size	Stalk Colour	Flavour	Fresh Eating	Freezing	Desserts	Preserves	Juices, Wine	Disease Resistance	Forcing	Comments
Canada Red	Late Spring - Fall	High	90 cm (36")	Medium	Red	Good, Sweet	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	✓	—	Thick tender stalks, one of the sweetest varieties on the market. Retains colour when cooked.
Glaskin Perpetual	Late Spring - Fall	High	60 cm (24")	Short	Red	Sweet	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Shorter growing and sweeter stalks.
Holsteiner Blut	Late Spring - Early Summer	High	120 cm (48")	Long	Deep red	Tart	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	✓	✓	Vigorous variety with long, deep red stalks and flesh.
Red Champagne	Late Spring - Late Summer	Medium	60 cm (24")	Long	Red	Sweet	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Heritage variety, long stems with a sweet, 'winey' flavour.
Strawberry Red	Early Spring - Mid Summer	High	90 cm (36")	Medium	Rose Pink	Good, Sweet	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Tender and sweet rose pink stalks, never stringy.
Victoria	Late Spring - Late Summer	High	90 cm (36")	Thick	Thick red and green	Sweet, slightly tart	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	One of the most popular varieties. Thick, red and green stems and heavy yielding.

Caution: The stalks (stems) - the part you want to eat are safe, but the rhubarb leaves contain oxalate which is toxic in large quantities. When harvesting, remove the leaves from the stalks and wash well. Teach children the safe parts to eat and keep an eye on pets in the garden. Avoid rhubarb that has frost damage as the oxalate may have leached from the leaves into the stalk.

Rhubarb is easy to grow and maintain and exceptionally hardy to -40°C (-40°F) Zone 3, which makes it suited for many Canadian climates.

Plant rhubarb in the early spring in well-draining and fertile soil. Choose a full sun or partially shaded location. Space rhubarb plants 60-90 cm (24-36") apart in rows 90-100 cm (36-40") apart. Dig holes extra large and mix composted manure and organic fertilizers into the soil. Plant with the crown just above soil level. Firm the soil around the roots but keep it loose over the crown. Water in well. A top dressing of 5-10-10 fertilizer can applied at the time of planting.

Pick minimal amounts the first year of growth. A full harvest may be enjoyed in the second year of growth.

