

## QUICK REFERENCE PLANTING GUIDE

LIGHT/SUN EXPOSURE	Full sun.
USDA HARDINESS ZONES	3 to 9.
PLANT TYPE	Perennial.
PLANTING DISTANCE IN-GROUND	At least 18 inches apart.
CONTAINER SIZE	One plant per 12 inch or larger container.
MATURE HEIGHT / SPREAD	2 to 3 feet tall with a similar spread.
BLOOM TIME	Summer.
TIME TO REACH MATURITY	3 years.
FACTS OF NOTE	Tender stalks. Long-lived and cold hardy. Great for making pies and preserves.

### SOIL PREPARATION

We recommend having your soil tested periodically by your local County Extension Office ([www.nifa.usda.gov/extension](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/extension) or by calling 1-800-333-4636). A soil test can determine if your soil needs any amendments to enhance the growth and performance of your plants.

Ideal garden soil is easy to dig in and drains well while still holding the nutrients and water vital to plant growth. To prepare a bed for in-ground planting, spade or till the soil to a depth of roughly 12-18 inches. Next, spread a 2-4 inch layer of organic matter such as compost, shredded leaves or peat moss over the soil and mix well.

# Thank you for your order!

### PLANT WARRANTY

We warrant perennials for 1 year and annuals for 90 days from the time of the original shipment. If for any reason you are dissatisfied, we will replace your plant with a similar or comparable one, at no charge. If your replacement is not available or it is too late in the season to ship, it will reship the following shipping season.

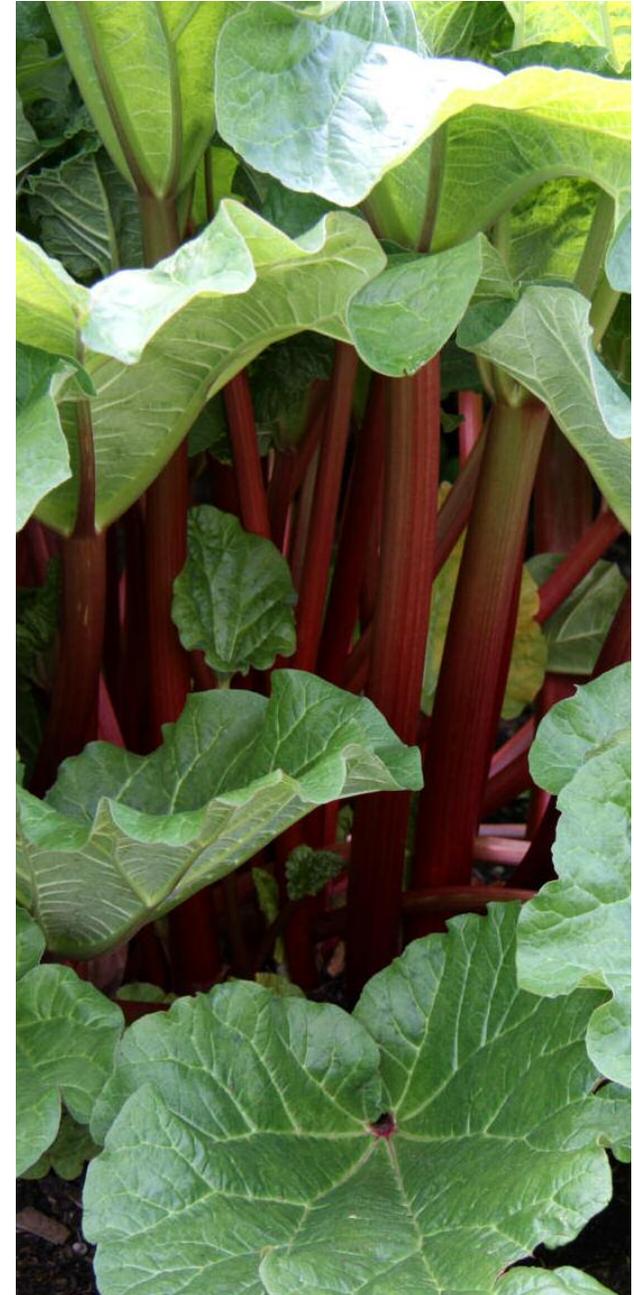
If you have any questions or concerns about your order, please contact us at 888-593-3644 or [help@cottagefarmsdirect.com](mailto:help@cottagefarmsdirect.com).

**Caution: Do not assume any plant is safe to eat. Only parts of plants expressly grown to be eaten should be considered edible. As with any product that is not food, care should be taken to make sure that small children and pets do not ingest any part of the plant that is not expressly grown to be eaten.**

Unless specifically stated, this product is intended for ornamental horticultural use only and is not intended for consumption or ingestion by humans or pets. Most plants are harmless, but some contain toxic substances which can cause adverse health effects. Furthermore, some individuals and some animals are sensitive or allergic to certain plants and precautions should be taken to limit or avoid physical contact with particular plants. Some plants have thorns or spines that can be painful if handled.

**In case of ingestion contact a poison control center immediately.  
1-800-222-1222**

# RHUBARB



\*Image on cover is representative of the type of plant(s) in this offer and not necessarily indicative of actual size or color for the included variety.

## OUT OF THE BOX

### RHUBARB

Your plants have been shipped to you in bare root form. We urge you to remove them from the shipping box and plant them as soon as possible. Should planting be delayed due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances, keep the bare root plants in a cool, dark location until you are ready to plant them. A refrigerator is ideal, but an unheated garage or basement is also acceptable. Keep bare roots moist, but not soaking wet by using a spray bottle to mist them. Once planted, they begin setting roots and, as the weather warms, begin showing new growth. Please plant as soon as possible, provide reasonable care and be patient.



SHIPPED AS SHOWN

### PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

Rhubarb performs best when planted away from other plants that would compete for water and nutrients. For best results, plant your rhubarb in its own bed where it can be left to grow indefinitely. Raised beds are particularly effective for growing rhubarb.

Dig a hole with a depth and width of about 12 inches. Create a mound of soil roughly 8 inches tall on which to place the bareroot plant. Carefully spread the dormant roots over each mound, covering the roots with 4 inches of soil. Water thoroughly.

## CONTINUING CARE

WATERING	<p>Adequate and consistent watering is essential during your plant's first year in the garden. Infrequent, long soakings of water that thoroughly saturate the soil are more effective than frequent, light applications of water.</p> <p>Due to variable geographical and environmental conditions, a specific watering schedule is difficult to define. However, as a rule of thumb, you should not allow the soil or the original root ball to completely dry out. During the first summer, you may need to water as often as every few days in periods of drought and extreme summer heat. To determine if your plant needs water, dig a few inches into the soil next to the plant. If the soil is dry 2-3 inches below the surface, it is time to water.</p> <p>Overwatering can be as damaging as under watering. Be sure that the area surrounding your plant has adequate drainage to move water away from the plant. If you choose to plant in a container, always select one with drainage holes to prevent your plant's roots from sitting in water.</p>
	<p>Mulch with a 2-4 inch layer of shredded bark, compost, leaves, straw or other organic matter around your plants to promote moisture retention, maintain even soil temperatures and discourage weed growth. Replenish the mulch as needed.</p>
	<p>Keep the area around your plants free of weeds. Weeds compete with surrounding plants for food, water and light, and can significantly reduce your harvest. Walk around the garden periodically and pull weeds, including the roots, as soon as you see them.</p>
FEEDING	<p>Feed your plants once every 2-3 weeks during the growing season with a water-soluble fertilizer for fruits and vegetables. Discontinue fertilizing by September 1st to allow your plants to harden off for winter dormancy.</p>

## CONTINUING CARE (Continued)

HARVESTING	<p>Rhubarb should not be harvested during its first year in the garden. Instead, allow the stalks to mature and form a canopy of foliage. This allows the root system to become well-established, increasing your harvest in years to come. During the second spring, 2-3 stalks can be harvested from each plant. Cut or snap the stalks off just above the soil surface when they are 12-18 inches long. In the third season and every year thereafter, up to one third of the stalks from each plant may be harvested. Store rhubarb in the refrigerator, and do not consume rhubarb leaves.</p>
PRUNING	<p>In late fall or before new growth begins in early spring, cut the foliage down as close to the soil level as possible. New growth will emerge in spring as temperatures rise.</p>
WINTERIZING	<p>Watering thoroughly in late fall will greatly enhance your plant's cold tolerance once the ground has frozen.</p> <p>Rhubarb is incredibly hardy, but will benefit from mulching in very cold areas. The time to winterize your plants is in late fall. When winterizing perennials, keep in mind that the root system is the most vulnerable to cold damage. Mulch heavily by mounding a 6-8 inch layer of shredded bark, compost, leaves, straw or other organic material around the base of each plant.</p> <p>In very cold areas, containerized plants can be brought into an unheated, protected area such as a garage or cellar before temperatures drop below freezing. Check soil moisture every 2-3 weeks and water as needed during winter.</p> <p>In spring, remove mulch from in-ground plantings. Containerized plants should be moved back out into the garden sunlight where they will begin to repeat their yearly garden performance.</p>