



RHUBARB **Cultural Instructions**

PLANTING

Planting should be undertaken when the plants are dormant (between late November and late March). The divisions should be planted 90cm (3ft) apart each way with the crowns slightly above ground level.

In order to avoid Crown Rot problems (particularly when the soil is inclined to be slightly heavy or over wet), it is advisable to establish the plant in a container, before transferring to the open ground in spring. Each crown can be individually planted in a 20cm (8in) container, using a multi-purpose compost. The container should be positioned in a cold greenhouse, garage or shed and the compost should be kept slightly damp at all times. The plant can then be transferred to the open ground in April when the weather and soil conditions are more suitable.

MANURING

Rhubarb will respond to annual surface dressings of farmyard manure or compost covering the plant. In addition, immediately after planting or at the end of March, whichever is the later, each crown should have broadcast in a circle 45cm (18in) diameter around it:

25g (1oz) Nitro-Chalk (calcium ammonium nitrate)
and 10g (1/4oz) sulphate of potash

At the end of May and June broadcast:

20g (3/4oz) Nitro-Chalk (calcium ammonium nitrate)

In subsequent years in March, broadcast on each m² (yd²) in a circle 90cm (3ft) diameter:

20g (3/4oz) Nitro-Chalk (calcium ammonium nitrate)
and 10g (1/4oz) sulphate of potash.

Alternatively, a compound fertilizer may be used following the manufacturer's recommendations.

CROPPING PERIOD

This varies according to the variety please see below-

Champagne	Early April to late July
Livingstone	May/June & then from September to November
Raspberry Red	April to June
Timperley Early	Early March to late August

No sticks should be pulled in the year of planting but in the following year a small number may be harvested; in the third year, a good crop should be forthcoming. With good management, rhubarb should produce worthwhile crops for six or seven years before the stems get thin and there is a need to divide the crowns and replant.

REPLANTING

If space permits, it is worthwhile planting a few new crown divisions each year, so that the oldest plants can be removed before they become unproductive; where possible, a fresh site should be chosen for the new plantings.