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www.farwestlandscape.net

5728 West State Street

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Care Guidelines

RHUBARB

Planting: Rich, well-drained soil with full sun exposure. Some partial shade is okay. If soil texture is poor, incorporate generous amounts of well-composted manure or vegetation into a trench 2 feet wide and at least 18 inches deep. Firm root divisions into soil so that top ¼ of the division is above surrounding soil surface. Water thoroughly.

Harvest: Allow newly planted divisions to grow one full year before harvesting any stalks. The second spring you may remove a few stalks for a three-week period in early spring. Never totally defoliate plants. The third spring, harvest may continue from early spring until hot weather begins. To remove stalks from plant, grasp firmly at the base. Gently pull away from crown, never cut them, since this may damage roots or encourage crown rot.

Feeding and care: Irrigate plants freely as soon as growth becomes visible in the spring, water is especially critical during hot, dry spells. A yearly application of vegetable-type fertilizer in springtime is beneficial. Mulch crown area with straw if winter temperatures drop below 20f. Remove flower stalks as they appear.

Uses: Succulent stalks are usually boiled and used for preserves and pie filling. Rhubarb plants, with their attractive large leaves, also make a lovely addition to the landscape if you allow plenty of space to grow.

Remember: Rhubarb leaves are toxic!