

Rhubarb

Rheum rhabarbarum · Buckwheat family

DIFFICULTY Easy
TYPE Perennial, grown from crowns
MATURITY 1 year to light harvest



SUN
Full-part sun



WATER
Regular



SOIL PH
6.0–6.8



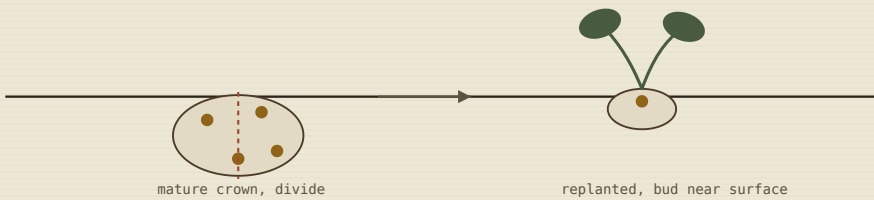
SPACING
90cm–1m



DEPTH
bud 2–3cm deep

01 Dividing crowns

Every 5–8 years, lift a mature crown and split it into sections, each with at least one healthy bud. Replant shallow — the bud should sit just below the soil surface.



02 Planting

METHOD	Plant divided crowns with the bud just below the surface — never buried deep.
SOIL	Rich, well-drained — heavy feeder. Dig in plenty of aged manure or compost.
TIMING	Plant dormant crowns in late winter to early spring.

03 Growing care

- Water deeply and regularly — stalks turn thin and stringy if it dries out.
- Feed generously with compost each spring and again after the main harvest.
- Remove flowering stalks promptly to keep energy in leaf and stalk growth.
- Mulch well to retain moisture and suppress weeds around the crown.

04 Problems

- **Crown rot** — from waterlogged soil; improve drainage, keep mulch off the crown.
- **Slugs and snails** — target new spring growth; use barriers or hand-pick at dusk.
- **Leaf spot** — fungal spotting in humid weather; remove affected leaves.
- **Thin stalks** — overcrowding, drought, or an ageing crown needing division.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Stalks reach 30–40cm and are firm; skip thin, weak ones.
METHOD	Pull and twist stalks from the base. Never eat the leaves — they're toxic.
CURING	None needed.
STORAGE	Fridge, wrapped, 1–2 weeks. Freezes well chopped.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY	AVOID NEARBY	ROTATION NOTE
Brassicas Strawberry	None major	Not applicable — divide and replant crowns every 5–8 years to maintain vigour.