

Rhubarb

Varieties

McDonald, Sutton, Valentine (produces fewer seed stalks than McDonald) — all red-fleshed varieties.

Planting and Spacing

Crowns: Use only young, healthy crowns having preferably 2 or 3 buds. Rows 5 to 6 feet apart. Set crowns in rows 3 feet apart in shallow furrows so crowns will be 2 inches below surface.

Age for Harvesting

Harvest no longer than 4 weeks, beginning with the third season of growth. Harvest for about 8 to 10 weeks after the third season. Do not remove more than two-thirds of the developed stalks from any plant at one time.

Bolting (Seed Stalk Formation)

Infertile soil, extreme heat or cold, drought, or long days that expose plants to too much light may cause bolting. Old plants bolt more. Valentine is more sensitive than McDonald, Ruby, and most green-stalked varieties.

Fertilizing

Lime: To maintain a soil pH of 6.2 to 6.8.

Preplant: N: 50 pounds per acre. P₂O₅: 0 to 150 pounds per acre. K₂O: 0 to 200 pounds per acre. Adjust according to soil type, previous management, and soil test results for your state. Apply 25 additional pounds of P₂O₅ directly in furrows when setting the rootstalks (divided crowns).

Yearly: Only N needed. Broadcast 50 pounds N per acre before beds are worked in the spring. Topdress with 35 pounds N per acre after new growth resumes.

Disease Control

Diseases Controlled	Treatment	Comments
Ascochyta Leaf Spot	Fertilize in fall for growth in the spring.	Remove older, yellowed leaves or leaves with lesions in the fall.
Crown Rot	Use disease-free plants.	Plant only on well-drained soil.

Weed Control

Weeds Controlled ¹	Treatment ²	Comments
All Weeds	Before spring growth, harrow bed thoroughly but carefully to avoid injuring the crowns. During the growing season, cultivate row-middles and hand hoe to keep the planting clean. Following the first light freeze in fall, mulch with 3-4 in. straw around plants, but not on crowns.	If additional mulch is needed in the spring, apply before hot, dry weather. Add more mulch during summer (if needed) to control weeds and retain moisture.
Annuals (emerged) — treatment applied before rhubarb buds begin to grow	Gramoxone Inteon 2L [®] at 2.5-4 pts. per acre, or Gramoxone Max 3L [®] at 1.7-2.7 pts. per acre.	Use 1 qt. of COC or 4-8 fl. oz. of nonionic surfactant per 25 gallons of spray solution. Apply in spring before buds begin to grow. Do not exceed 2 applications per season. RUP.
Annuals and Perennials (emerged) — crop not present or protected from spray	Glyphosate products at 0.75-3.75 lbs. acid equivalent (ae) per acre. Use formulations containing 3 lbs. ae/gal. (4 lbs. isopropylamine salt/gal.) at 1-5 qts. per acre, or formulations containing 4.5 lbs. ae/gal. (5 lbs. potassium salt/gal.) at 0.66-3.3 qts. per acre.	Broadcast before plants emerge, or apply between rows with wipers or hooded or shielded sprayers. Use low rate for annuals and higher rates for perennials. See label for suggested application volume and adjuvants. 14-day PHI.
Broadleaves (not emerged or emerged)	Callisto 4L [®] at 6 fl. oz. per acre.	Apply to dormant rhubarb. Use COC or nonionic surfactant to improve control of emerged weeds. Do not exceed 6 fl. oz. per acre per year, or 1 application per year. 21-day PHI.

Weeds Controlled ¹	Treatment ²	Comments
Broadleaves (emerged)	Aim EC [®] at 0.5-2 fl. oz. per acre.	Apply with hooded sprayers as a directed application between crop rows. Use COC or nonionic surfactant. Weeds must be actively growing and less than 4 inches tall. Do not allow spray to contact crop. Do not exceed 6.1 fl. oz. per acre per season.
Grasses (emerged)	Poast 1.5E [®] at 1-1.5 per acre.	Use 1 qt. of COC per acre. Spray on actively growing grass. Do not exceed 3 pts. per acre per season. 15-day PHI for Illinois, Indiana, and Minnesota. 30-day PHI for other states.
	Select Max [®] at 12-16 fl. oz. per acre, or Select 2EC [®] at 6-8 fl. oz. per acre.	Use 1 qt. of COC per 25 gallons of spray solution. Spray on actively growing grass. Wait at least 14 days between applications. Do not exceed 64 fl. oz. Select Max [®] or 32 fl. oz. Select 2EC [®] per acre per season. 30-day PHI.

¹For specific weeds controlled by each herbicide, check Table 19 on page 37.

²Rates given are for overall coverage. For band treatment, reduce amounts according to the portion of acre treated.

Insect Control

Insects Controlled	Treatment	Comments
Aphids, Leafhoppers, Whiteflies	Admire PRO [®] at 4.4-10.5 fl. oz. per acre.	Do not exceed 0.38 lb. a.i. per acre per season. 45-day PHI.
	Fulfill [®] at 2.75 oz. per acre.	Do not exceed 5.5 oz. per acre per season. 7-day PHI.
	Mustang Max [®] at 2.24-4.0 fl. oz. per acre.	Do not exceed 0.15 lb. a.i. per acre per season. 1-day PHI. RUP.
	Pounce 25W [®] at 6.4-12.8 oz. per acre.	Apply every 3-5 days (or as needed) in sufficient water to obtain full coverage of foliage. Do not exceed 2 lbs. a.i. per acre per season. 1-day PHI. RUP.
Armyworms, Corn Earworms, Cutworms, Loopers	Entrust [®] at 1.25-2.5 oz. per acre. Armyworms and loopers only.	Do not exceed 9 oz. per acre per season. Observe resistance management restrictions. 1-day PHI.
	Intrepid 2F [®] at 4-10 fl oz. per acre. Armyworms and loopers only.	Do not exceed 64 fl. oz. per acre. 1-day PHI.
	Larvin 3.2 [®] at 16-30 fl. oz. per acre. Not for cutworms.	Do not exceed 60 fl. oz. per acre per season. 14-day PHI. RUP.
	Mustang Max [®] at 2.24-4.0 fl. oz. per acre.	Do not exceed 0.15 lb. a.i. per acre per season. 1-day PHI. RUP.
	Pounce 25W [®] at 6.4-12.8 oz. per acre. Also for European corn borers.	Apply every 3-5 days or as needed in sufficient water to obtain full coverage of foliage. Do not exceed 2 lbs. a.i. per acre per season. 1-day PHI. RUP.
	SpinTor 2SC [®] at 4-8 fl. oz. per acre. Armyworms and loopers only.	Do not exceed 29 fl. oz. per acre per season. Observe resistance management restrictions. 1-day PHI.
Common Stalk Borers, Rhubarb Curculios	There are no registered insecticides that will give adequate control.	Control by cultivating field and margins. Remove curly dock, the normal host of rhubarb curculios.