

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



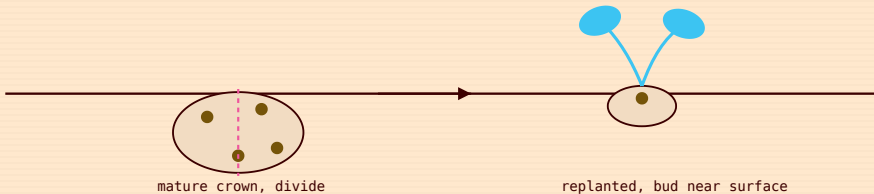
SPACING
90cm–1m



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.

Planting timing varies significantly by Australian climate zone. Set your zone above (or use the Find My Climate Zone tool) for guidance tailored to your own area.

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.
PRESERVING	See Freezing Produce (freezing a harvest surplus) for ways to keep a harvest surplus.

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.