

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. P_2O_5 : 0 to 150 pounds per acre. K_2O : 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 P_2O_5 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.

Pesticide Use in Greenhouses

Before using any pesticide, always read the product label for mention of greenhouse restrictions. See Selected Information About Recommended Fungicides (page 79), Selected Information About Recommended Herbicides (page 69), and Selected Information About Recommended Insecticides (page 54).

Disease Control

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

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 inches of 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.

The herbicides listed below may also be used. Herbicides that control broadleaves must be applied while rhubarb is dormant or with shielded equipment between the row, as stated on the label. Herbicides that kill only emerged grasses may be applied over the top of rhubarb plants.

For specific weeds controlled by each herbicide, check Relative Effectiveness of Herbicides for Vegetable Crops (page 68).

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

Dormant or Shielded Applications

Broadleaves and Grasses

Recommended Products

Gramoxone SL 2.0® at 2.5-4 pts. per acre. Use 1 qt. of COC or 4-8 fl. oz. of NIS per 25 gals. of spray solution. Apply in spring before buds begin to grow. Do not exceed 2 applications per season. *RUP*.

Glyphosate products at 0.75-3.75 lbs. acid equivalent (ae) per acre. Use formulations containing 3 lbs. ae per gal. (4 lbs. isopropylamine salt per gal.) at 1-5 qts. per acre, or formulations containing 4.5 lbs. ae per gal. (5 lbs. potassium salt per 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.

Shielded Applications Broadleaves

Recommended Products

Aim EC® at 0.5-2 fl. oz. per acre. Apply with hooded sprayers as a directed application between crop rows. Use COC or NIS. 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.

Preemergence Broadleaves and Grasses

Recommended Products

Calisto 4SC® at 6 fl. oz. per acre. Apply to dormant rhubarb. Applying after growth begins will cause crop stunting and bleaching. Use COC or NIS to improve control of emerged weeds. Has residual activity to control weeds that have not emerged. Do not exceed 6 fl. oz. per acre per year, or 1 application per year. 21-day PHI.

Caparol 4L® at 2-4 pts. per acre. Apply to dormant rhubarb before leaves emerge in spring. Use low rate on light soils. 40-day PHI.

Casoron 4G® at 50 lbs. per acre. Apply before rhubarb emerges in early spring. Must be watered into soil.

Command 3ME® at 4 pts. per acre. Apply to dormant rhubarb before leaves emerge.

Dual Magnum 7.62E® at 0.67-1.33 pts. per acre. Apply in spring before rhubarb and weeds emerge. Make a second application after harvest. Do not exceed 1.33 pts. per acre per year. 62-day PHI.

Kerb 3.3 SC® at 2.5-5 pts. per acre. *Michigan only – applicators must have 24(c) label.* Apply to dormant plants after frost has killed leaves in fall. Suppresses quackgrass. Do not apply to rhubarb the year of planting. Include glyphosate with application for better weed control. 38-day PHI. *RUP.*

Lorox 50DF® at 2-3 lbs. per acre. Apply broadcast to dormant rhubarb in the spring before leaves emerge.

Sandea 75DF® at 0.5-1 oz. per acre. Apply to dormant rhubarb in the spring. May cause crop stunting. Use low rate to determine crop safety under field conditions. Controls yellow nutsedge. Does not control grass. 60-day PHI.

Postemergence Broadleaves

Recommended Products

Quinstar 4L® at 12.6 fl. oz. per acre. Apply as a foliar spray to control Canada thistle and field bindweed. Can make a second application 30 days after the first. Do not exceed 25.2 fl. oz. per acre per year. 30-day PHI.

Postemergence Grasses

Recommended Products

Clethodim products at the following rates:

Select Max® at 9-16 fl. oz. per acre. Use Select Max® with 8 fl. oz. of NIS per 25 gals. of spray solution (0.25% v/v). Do not exceed 64 fl. oz. of Select Max® per acre per season.

2EC formulations of clethodim products at 6-8 fl. oz. per acre. Use 2EC formulations with 1 qt. COC per 25 gals. of spray solution (1% v/v). Do not exceed 32 fl. oz. of 2EC formulations per acre per season.

Spray on actively growing grass. Wait at least 14 days between applications. 30-day PHI.

Fusilade DX 2E® at 10-16 fl. oz. per acre. Use 1-2 pts. of COC or 0.5-1 pt. of NIS per 25 gals. of spray solution. Apply to small actively growing grass. Do not exceed 32 fl. oz. per acre per year. 14-day PHI.

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.

Insect Control

Aphids, Leafhoppers, Whiteflies

Recommended Products

Actara® (25WDG) at the following rates:

Aphids or leafhoppers: 1.5-3.0 oz. per acre.

Whiteflies: 3.0-5.5 oz. per acre.

Do not exceed 11 oz. per acre per season. 7-day PHI.

Admire Pro® (4.6F) applied to the soil at 4.4-10.5 fl. oz. per acre. Do not exceed 10.5 fl. oz. per acre per season. 45-day PHI.

Assail 30SG® at 2-4 oz. per acre. Do not exceed 5 applications per season. 7-day PHI.

Belay® (2.13 SC) at 3-4 fl. oz. per acre. 7-day PHI.

Beleaf 50SG® at 2-2.8 oz. per acre. *Aphids only.* 0-day PHI.

Brigade 2EC® at 2.1-6.4 fl. oz. per acre. Do not exceed 32 fl. oz. per acre per season. 7-day PHI. *RUP.*

Fulfill® (50WDG) at 2.75 oz. per acre. *Aphids and whiteflies only.* Do not exceed 5.5 oz. per acre per season. 7-day PHI.

Mustang Maxx® (0.8EC) at 2.24-4.0 fl. oz. per acre. Do not exceed 24 fl. oz. per acre per season. 1-day PHI. *RUP.*

Platinum® (2SC) at 5-11 fl. oz. per acre. Do not exceed 11 fl. oz. per acre per season. 30-day PHI.

Sivanto 200SL® at 7-14 fl. oz. per acre. 1-day PHI.

Armyworms, Corn Earworms,

Cutworms, Loopers


Recommended Products

Ambush® (2EC) at 6.4-12.8 fl. oz. per acre. 1-day PHI.

Baythroid XL® (1EC) at 0.8-3.2 fl. oz. per acre. Do not exceed 12.8 fl. oz. per acre per season. 0-day PHI.

Brigade 2EC® at 2.1-6.4 fl. oz. per acre. Do not exceed 32 fl. oz. per acre per season. 7-day PHI. *RUP.*

Coragen® (1.67SC) at 3.5-5 fl. oz. per acre. Do not exceed 15.4 fl. oz. per acre per season. 1-day PHI.

 **Entrust**® (2SC) at 3-8 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.

Exirel® (0.83SE) at the following rates:

Armyworms, diamondback moth, and corn earworm: 7-13.5 fl. oz. per acre. Observe resistance management restrictions for diamondback moth.

Cabbage looper: 10-17 fl. oz. per acre.

Do not use adjuvants in tank-mix in spinach. Do not exceed 0.4 lb. a.i. per acre per season. 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.

Mustang Maxx® (0.8EC) at 2.24-4.0 fl. oz. per acre. Do not exceed 24 fl. oz. per acre per season. 1-day PHI. *RUP.*

Pounce 25WP® at 3.2-12.8 oz. per acre. Also for European corn borers. Do not exceed 4 lbs. per acre per season. 1-day PHI. *RUP.*

Radiant SC® (1SC) at 5-10 fl. oz. per acre. *Not for cutworms.* Do not exceed 34 fl. oz. per acre per season. 1-day PHI.

Sevin XLR Plus® (4F) at 1-2 qts. per acre. Do not exceed 6 qts. per acre per season. 14-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.

 May be acceptable for use in certified organic production. Check with your certifier before use.