

out some of the loose soil to give a good level base to set the plant on, spreading the roots in all directions. The crown of the plant should be about six inches below the level of the soil. Cover the plant with three inches of soil, and tramp the soil firmly. After the plant makes growth the furrow may be cultivated in level around it.

Frequent cultivation during the summer to keep the surface soil loose and all weed growth down is all that is required.

An annual application of manure at the rate of 20 tons per acre is advisable. This may be applied in the fall or spring, spread broadcast and ploughed under. Commercial fertilizer at the rate of 800 to 1,500 pounds per acre may be used in place of manure, if the soil contains a good supply of humus.

It is advisable to plough lightly toward the plants in the fall, crowning the soil over the row. In the early spring this is worked level again with disc and smoothing harrows, making the surface in good tilth to a depth of three to four inches.

Cutting is commenced the third year after the plants have been set, and may be continued until the middle of July, but not later. In the late fall the stalks are cut off with a scythe, removed and burned.

RHUBARB.

Rhubarb thrives best in a deep, rich, mellow soil. A clay soil or one with a hardpan subsoil should be avoided. The ground should be heavily manured, and worked deeply. It is impossible to overfeed this plant. The tendency to produce seed stalks will be greatly lessened by fertilizing heavily. The plantation may be started from seedling plants one or two years old, or from division of the crown. In dividing the crown each piece should have at least one good strong eye. The planting is done in the spring, and the plant set so that the top of the bud or eye is level with the soil.

Old plantations may be improved by ploughing off the side of the old plants, manuring heavily, and cultivating thoroughly, or the plants may be lifted, divided, and reset into fresh soil. A plantation properly handled and thoroughly manured should give good results for ten years.

The early spring growth depends largely upon the leaf growth made the previous season, hence the importance of not removing too much foliage at once, and encouraging good strong foliage during the summer and fall, for the purpose of storing in the root, nourishment for the next spring's growth. The importance of cultivation during the summer, keeping the soil well worked and all weed growth down is therefore obvious.

The usual practice is to manure in the fall and work this in the following spring. Some follow the practice of manuring heavily, which prevents the frost from penetrating the ground, and then remove the bulk of this in the early spring; others allow this heavy mulch to remain around the plant during summer, do not cultivate, and pull out any weeds that may start.