

Problem: Rhubarb Seedstalks



Host Plants: Rhubarb

Description: Rhubarb is a perennial vegetable that produces leaves early in the season that are harvested for the petiole (leaf stalk). Later in the season- especially in seasons with a longer, cool spring season, the plant will try to produce a large, hollow-stemmed seedstalk from the center of the plant. If the rhubarb is allowed to flower and produce seed, the vigor of the plant is reduced.

Recommendations: Seedstalks should be removed as soon as they appear. It may seem like a losing battle since seedstalks may rapidly re-appear. Keep cutting them out as they form and the seedstalk development will quit in a few weeks. Rhubarb does not come 'true to type' from seed so there is no advantage in allowing the plant to produce seed and collect the seed for re-planting. Most improved strains of rhubarb are selected for their bright red-colored stalks, vigor, and tendency to produce few, if any, seedstalks.

References:

1. [Rhubarb](#), Kansas State University, KSU Horticulture Report EP99
2. [Grow Your Own Rhubarb](#), Oregon State University, EC 797

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