

Horseradish

Planting & Growing Guide

Questions? Contact us at (888) 784-1722 or helpdesk@groworganic.com

Introduction: A hardy perennial that grows in all zones except the hottest, low desert regions. Where you plant depends on whether you intend to treat it as a perennial and leave it in place for years, or as an annual that you will re-plant each fall. For perennial planting, give it plenty of space, as it will reach about 3' tall x 2' wide. Plan on keeping it in line by harvesting all the lateral roots each year or it will re-sprout from these and soon you'll have a grove that is very difficult to harvest. Plant in full sun to partial shade. Grows in most soils, but prefers sandy loam and thrives on potassium. Amend your soil with sulfate of potash if needed. If you mulch in colder areas, wait until the soil is frozen before placing mulch, as horseradish dislikes any cycle of freezing and thawing. The mulch will help keep the soil frozen during warm spells. Needs good drainage; susceptible to root rot; so avoid planting again in same location for 3-4 years.

Heeling In: When your bare root crowns arrive, open the plastic bags immediately. It is best to plant right away, within a week of delivery, however if you cannot plant right away, you may "heel in" the crowns to protect them and keep them alive (but still dormant) until you are able to plant them in their permanent spot.

Outdoors: To heel in bare root crowns outside, pick a location that is shielded from wind. Dig a trench about twice as deep as the roots are long. Place in the hole roots side down. Cover the crowns with soil or sand and gently tamp down to avoid air pockets. Periodically check the crowns and keep the soil moist.

Indoors: To heel in bare root crowns indoors, whether due to snow or a frozen ground, choose a cool place like a root cellar, basement, or garage. It's important to choose a place where the temperature stays between 38°F and 45°F. This is important so the crowns neither freeze, nor do the crowns break dormancy. Place the crowns in a container with soil or sand and be sure to keep them moist.

Planting & Growing: Plant 2' - 3' apart in fall or early spring. Roots may appear crowned on top, or are bluntly cut straight across on the top end, and on a slant at the bottom end. If you harvest your own roots for planting a new crop, be sure to cut them the same way. Cultivate down to at least 8" and amend soil as needed. Horseradish does best in moist, rich soil high in organic matter, but avoid excessive nitrogen, which causes forked roots. The crown will be placed in the hole at an angle, not straight up and down, and the top should be 2" below the soil level, so dig a hole sufficient to accommodate your root (approximately 6-8").

Mix a good-sized handful of compost into the soil at the bottom of the soil (unless you've done an outstanding job of amending). Place the crown, and backfill while holding it in position. Provide ample water during the growing season or roots will be small and excessively pungent. If you plan to treat the plant as an annual and harvest the entire thing in fall, trim back lateral roots every six weeks beginning when the plant reaches 12" tall. To do this, carefully remove the soil down to the roots, snip off any exposed lateral roots and repack soil around the taproot. This procedure helps direct energy into developing the taproot; it's far easier to peel and prepare one large root than several small ones.

Important Information

- **If your plants arrived damaged**, take photographs and contact us immediately and we will provide you with a refund of the purchase price, or a replacement.
- **You should plant your horseradish within a week of delivery.** If you are unable to do so, you can plant it in a pot or "heel in" your horseradish until you are able to plant.
- **In the rare event that your horseradish does not leaf out by May 15th**, we offer a Limited Guarantee on dormant plants. See the last page for details.

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Blogs

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[Horseradish: How to Plant, Harvest & Serve It](#)

Harvesting: Horseradish roots set out in the spring are of harvestable size by fall. Most growth occurs in late summer and early fall, so it's best to delay harvest until October or November. Dig up the entire root. A perennial, pieces of roots left in the ground will grow the next spring, but will lack the quality of young roots. Large main roots left in the soil till spring and harvested before new growth begins will have the hottest taste.

Storage: Horseradish stores best when it is harvested later in the fall after the root has become conditioned to the cold. Allow to dry, and then pack in bins between layers of moist sand or sawdust. Place in a dark location where humidity is over 90% and the temperature is between 32°F - 40°F. Over 45°F and they will begin to get woody and sprout. In optimal conditions, horseradish may be stored for 6-12 months.



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Perishable Items (3-Day Return Policy):

We guarantee the perishable items we sell to be in good, viable condition when we sell them. Perishable items include, but are not limited to, garlic bulbs, flower bulbs, seed potatoes, onion sets & transplants, bare-root trees, vegetable crowns... etc. If your perishable item arrives in substandard condition, please contact us within 3 days of the purchase date (or delivery date) and we will provide you with a refund of the purchase price (including shipping costs), or a replacement. Accordingly, we urge you to open any boxes marked as "Perishable" immediately upon receiving them. Because some perishable items can deteriorate very quickly, we cannot accept any claims beyond the 3-day time frame as it becomes too difficult to determine if these items were delivered in substandard condition, or if they turned into such substandard condition because of having been improperly cared for or stored once delivered.

Limitation of Remedy

We warrant to the extent of the purchase price only that the seeds or plants sold hereunder are as described on the label within recognized tolerances. No other warranty is given, expressed or implied, of (1) the merchantability or fitness of the seeds or plants for any particular purpose, or (2) against loss due to any cause. We cannot accept any responsibility for the many uncontrollable growing and climatic conditions (soil preparation, fertilization, weed and pest control, temperature control, irrigation...etc.) that must be met to insure the success of your crop(s) or plants.

Limited Dormant Tree & Plant Guarantee (When Planted in the Ground by April 1st)

Claim Deadline is June 1st (with the exception of persimmon trees, which have a deadline of June 15th). Claims placed after June 1st (or June 15th for persimmon trees) will be denied.

Please note: Our trees will come to you topped off at approximately 3 ft. in height to put the tree's stored energy into root development vs. foliage production.

What We Guarantee

Our only guarantee is that your dormant tree/plant will arrive in good, viable condition and will leaf out by May 15th (historically 98% of our trees do). This guarantee is only available to customers who purchased their tree/plant directly from us, and who planted their tree/plant in the ground by April 1st (or temporarily in a pot if the ground in their zone was still frozen solid).

What We Cannot Guarantee

We cannot guarantee that your tree/plant remains alive & healthy, or bears fruit, as there are too many variables beyond our control in order to do so (i.e. soil preparation, planting, fertilization, weed & pest control, adequate irrigation and/or drainage, chill hours, compatible hardiness for your zone, proper choice of pollinator, etc).

How to Request a Credit

If your tree/plant does not leaf out by May 15th, please perform a scratch test by checking for green under the bark, a few inches over the graft. If the scratch test reveals a brown cambium, that means your tree/plant is dead or dying. Watch our video titled Bare Root (Dormant) Warranty on how to perform this simple test. If the scratch test revealed that your plant is dead or dying, pull it from the ground and take pictures of the entire tree/plant, including the roots. Submit your claim & pictures by using the "Return an Item" tool on our Customer Service page (or email us at helpdesk@groworganic.com) no later than June 1st (or June 15th for persimmon trees). We will review your claim and issue you a credit (not a refund) for the purchase price of your tree/plant (excluding shipping).*

(We reserve the right to not issue credit for items already replaced. We also reserve the right to require photographic evidence that the tree/plant was not killed by root rot, rodent or mechanical damage.*



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