

# HORSERADISH

Horseradish grows naturally throughout much of Eastern Europe from the lands bordering the Caspian Sea through Russia and Poland to Finland. Planted in Colonial American gardens, it escaped to flourish as a wild plant.

Horseradish rarely produces seed and is generally grown from root cuttings. Horseradish is a perennial hardy to -10F, but it is usually grown as an annual because old roots are tough and not as tasty as young roots.

Set each root cutting small end down and with the large end 2 to 3 inches below the soil surface. Space plants about 12 inches apart. Roots set out in spring will be harvested in fall. When the leaves are about a foot high, pull back the soil above the cuttings and remove all but one or two of the crown sprouts. At the same time, with gloved hands rub off the small roots from the side of the cutting. Don't disturb the branch roots at the base. Recover the root with soil. This operation should be repeated in about a month for top growing horseradish.

Most growth occurs during late summer and early fall, so it's best to delay harvest until October or November. Dig up the entire root; pieces of root left in the ground will grow the follow spring, but they will not have the quality of young roots.

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- 1 -

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