Rhubarb, Crimson Cherry

Rheum 'Crimson Cherry'



Rhubarb, Crimson Cherry foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 3 feet

Flower Height: 4 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 3a

Other Names: Crimson, Crimson Red, Crimson Wine

Description:

A bright red stalked variety of rhubarb which is less showy in flowers than most but it has attractive and prolific leaf development; only the crimson stems are edible, other plant parts are poisonous

Edible Qualities

Rhubarb, Crimson Cherry is a perennial that is typically grown for its edible qualities, although it does have ornamental merits as well. The large crimson stalks are typically harvested when mature. The stalks have a sweet taste.

The stalks are most often used in the following ways:

- Fresh Eating
- Cooking
- Baking
- Preserves
- Canning
- Sauces

Features & Attributes

Rhubarb, Crimson Cherry is primarily valued in the landscape or garden for its pronouncedly upright and towering form. It features bold spikes of creamy white flowers rising above the foliage from late spring to early summer. Its attractive large crinkled lobed leaves emerge chartreuse in spring, turning dark green in color throughout the season. The crimson stems are very colorful and add to the overall interest of the plant.

This is an herbaceous perennial with a rigidly upright and towering form. Its wonderfully bold, coarse texture can be very effective in a balanced garden composition. This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Aside from its primary use as an edible, Rhubarb, Crimson Cherry is sutiable for the following landscape applications;

- Vertical Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Orchard/Edible Landscaping

Planting & Growing

Rhubarb, Crimson Cherry will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity extending to 4 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 4 feet. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant is quite ornamental as well as edible, and is as much at home in a landscape or flower garden as it is in a designated edibles garden. It does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. To help this plant achive its best flowering performance, periodically apply a flower-boosting fertilizer from early spring through into the active growing season. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.