

Horseradish

Horseradish is a prolific perennial that takes little care. Grated, its root is a super condiment. .

Varieties

The best-known variety is 'Maliner Kren.' Roots available in grocery stores will grow as well as those from catalogs or local garden centers.

Planting

Prepare a separate bed for horseradish, which can become a weed if left uncontrolled. The bed must be loose and rich. Add compost, rotted manure, or peat, along with fertilizer, to stimulate healthy root growth. For best results, plant the roots as soon as possible in spring. Space plants 12 inches apart in a block.

Care

When tiny shoots appear, apply grass clippings, shredded leaves, or straw around the plants. Water often to encourage vigorous growth. Remove weeds by hand. Side-dress with fertilizer twice during growing season.

Harvest

Dig roots as needed after the first fall frost, but only if the bed is thriving. Sometimes it is best to wait until the second season to begin harvesting. Always leave some roots in the bed to keep it alive for the next season.