



# HOW TO PLANT A HOP RHIZOME

## Source Your Rhizome

Get your rhizomes from the Garden Club! We begin harvesting in March and have over 20 varieties available. If you can't get it from us, Tumalo Hops and Smith Rock Hop Farm are other great local options. Freshops and Crosby Farms fill online orders, and we're all reputable sources that provide healthy, disease-free rhizome stock.

## Prepare the Growing Site

Hops like lots of sun and a well-drained, nutrient-rich, slightly acidic soil (pH 6.0-6.5). When mature, they can grow up to 25 feet, so make sure you choose a spot with plenty of vertical climbing space. Mix an organic soil amendment like composted steer manure into the existing area, and if drainage is a problem, plant the rhizome in a raised mound of soil to prevent puddling. Standing water encourages fungus and rot. If your soil pH is too low, add lime; if it's too high, add sulfur.

## Plant the Rhizome

Dig a hole slightly deeper than the length of the rhizome and twice as wide. Set in vertically with the buds pointed up and bury under at least one inch of soil. To increase the chance of successful establishment, you can plant up to three rhizomes per mound, spaced a few inches apart. When planting hops side by side, leave three to four feet in between.

## Water Carefully

Immediately soak the newly planted area, then keep the soil moist but not saturated. This usually means shallow watering every other day. Once established, hops prefer deep, consistent watering and even moisture throughout the growing season. During the hottest months of the summer, they can use several gallons of water per day. Drip irrigation works best to keep foliage dry.

## Train Bines

Once your hop shoots are a couple of feet tall, you must provide a structure on which they can climb. Most commonly in agricultural production, this is heavy twine (but you can find other trellis options on our Pinterest page). To train, choose two to three of the strongest bines and wind clockwise around the twine, making sure to handle carefully as young shoots are very fragile. If you break one, choose another bine to replace it. And don't cut back any foliage on first-year plants as they must build up a carbohydrate reserve to get through the following winter. Supplement with a nitrogen-rich fertilizer if needed, and come June, you can watch your bines grow several inches per day!

## Harvest and Winter Care

You probably won't get a lot of hops your first year as the plant is mostly working to build its root system, but feel free to pluck anything you do get. Leave the rest of it up until most of the foliage has turned yellow and died back (usually around November), then cut to a few inches from the ground. Clean up plant debris in and around the crown to discourage recurring pest and disease problems. For a recycled fertilizer, burn discarded bines and spread at the base of the plant. Hop plants are very hardy and require no extra care throughout the winter. When properly taken care of, they can live for fifty years or longer, so enjoy your investment!

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[www.worthygardenclub.com](http://www.worthygardenclub.com)

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