

GIANT RHUBARB IDENTIFICATION

- Giant rhubarb has unmistakable massive rhubarb-like leaves (up to 100cm in diameter and 200cm in height) which emerge from a perennial rhizomatous rootstock on stout stalks.
- The entire plant is covered with coarse prickles.
- Tiny green flowers are borne in large spikes during the summer which produce abundant tiny seeds.
- The leaves wither back in winter and expose the large dormant buds that are covered in pinkish scales.
- Giant rhubarb is able to thrive in low nutrient and immature soils such as on sedimentary cliffs, exposed moraines, and disturbed soil sites.
- It has huge tolerance to salt spray and is found growing right to the shore on Achill Island and in parts of Connemara, and appears to thrive in water-logged situations growing in stream beds and wet meadows. It does not appear to do well in well-drained or droughtprone soils.
- Giant rhubarbs massive leaves enable it to out-shade other herbaceous plants and grasses.
- It spreads rapidly by rhizome and seed to form extensive mono-typic stands and can block drainage ditches, streams and obstruct access.

