

GUNNERA



- Gunnera is also known as Brazilian Giant Rhubarb, and in the right conditions it can grow leaves up to 2m tall and wide, although the only place I have seen the plants grow to these epic proportions was at the Lost Gardens of Heligan in Cornwall.
- Gunnera needs a very moist and rich soil to thrive, and while it can be grown in pots, they must be kept moist. The biggest and best plants are grown in close proximity to ponds and lakes.
- They are root hardy when mature, but do need some protection. Often just cutting down the leaves in autumn and turning them upside down over the crown of the plant is sufficient protection,
- Gunnera has recently been in the press as the result of research done by the RHS into whether or not 'gunnera manicata' is the true variety, or if it is a hybrid that has been deemed invasive. At present, Defra is not requesting retailers destroy their current stock, and asking that retailers take steps to confirm whether their plants are true gunnera manicata. That said, the supplier of my plants sourced their original stock plants from some of the oldest collections in the UK, and they are taking steps to achieve definitive identification of the species.