



Garden Tips for Jerusalem Artichokes: “How do I keep my Jerusalem Artichokes under control???”

Even though there is plenty of advice out there how to plant tubers and the advantages of the plant as visual cover and its nutrition there is still perplexity of how one can control the invasion-like spreading. I would like to restrict myself to this theme.

Basically it is not too difficult, do not despair.

First one needs to establish that there are varieties that grow very long stolons and have tubers growing at its ends and then there are such where the tubers can be directly set around the mother tuber. Former have a larger expanding radius than the latter.

New shoots follows only from tubers that have formed the previous year. So, one has to prevent the forming of new tubers.

Often one tries to dig up the tubers. That brings some activity but doesn't lead to the goal because neither human beings nor wild boars who have a much better sense of smell will ever find all the tubers. I've also read a recommendation to set *sheet pile walls* into the garden soil as root barrier. Way too much effort, just forget it.

To prevent the Jerusalem artichoke from growing in unwelcomed places the young shoots will have to be pulled out every spring when they are 10 to 20 cm high. As not all tubers shoot at the same time one has to continue pulling until no shoots appear any more.

But it is important to really pull out all the shoots!

Should Jerusalem artichoke appear in your lawn then mow them with a lawnmower flat every week . That has the same effect as the pulling out.

When it is not possible for the green plant matter to form no new tubers can be set for the following year. An area treated respectively will be Jerusalem artichoke free in the next year.

Have great success and fun with Jerusalem artichokes there where you allow her (the Jerusalem artichoke is female) to grow in your garden as I do hope you will do!

Gerhard Cordes