



Tips for the Wild Field

The Jerusalem artichoke plant is well-known to the huntsmen. It can be found on many wild fields as the weed, which grows 2-4m high as well as the frost-resistance tuber is well received by the game.

What is sometimes a worry for garden owners is here a great advantage: Once planted Jerusalem artichokes will germinate for many years. Even when the boars rummage wildly through the field they won't find all the tubers!

The choice selection, whether red or yellow, early or late plays in my experience a minor role, even though every plant provider praises its own special variety. With some varieties the leaves are preferred with others the tubers and it seems that there are differences from territory to territory.

It has been known that deer needed a year before they accepted Jerusalem artichokes, so keep calm and wait.

Jerusalem artichokes have a threefold use for the wild field:

1. The weed offers grazing space till autumn and cover till spring!
2. The frost-resistance tuber offer from autumn to spring tasty grazing.
3. Once planted Jerusalem artichokes will germinate for many years by itself.

Planting:

4-5 tubers/sqm or 120 – 150g/sqm

With a line distance of 75cm the distance in the line is 30 -40 cm.

Planting by hand in pre-drawn lines or holes, it is easier with a potato planter.

Planting depth:

When the tuber is planted and ridged up the top edge should be level with the field surface. So don't plant the tubers too deep!

When no dam is ridged up and the field is to remain level the tubers should be covered with a maximum of 5cm soil.

Important in the first year:

The plants should be kept weed-free up to a growth height of 20cm!

In rare cases a fence is necessary when the game thrust is too strong otherwise the freshly planted tubers will be knocked out or the young shoots will be damaged.

The plant can't develop and won't form tubers that are necessary for re-germination in the following year.

These measures are usually not any more necessary from the second year onwards as there will be sufficient tubers in the ground for new shoots even when the game has ploughed the whole field thoroughly.

So that the game can eat from your Jerusalem artichoke field for a long time I recommend the following line of action: The dead stems should be left as cover over winter until spring. In our experience game will clear the field fast when the stems have been mowed.

For the same reason the tubers shouldn't be ploughed out. The game will knock them out alone otherwise it would be luxury consuming.

In spring the tubers that have remained in the soil will shoot with or without soil processing also when the previous year stems are still standing. Stock will be very tight and so the plant may only grow to 2m. If you want higher plants you have to decrease the stock e.g. work the soil several times with a potato hoarder or corn hoe.

Fertilising is not necessary or only in small quantities.

Good Luck with Jerusalem artichokes wishes

Gerhard Cordes, Kirchlinteln

Gerhard Cordes

TOPINA Diät-Rohstoff GmbH Zum Lindhoop 11 27308 Kirchlinteln Telefon: 04236 1665 Fax: 04236 1671
E-Mail: info@topina.net