

Growing Asparagus

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STEPS TO SUCCEED WITH THIS PERENNIAL VEGETABLE

PREPARATION FOR PLANTING

- Choose a site with full sun and well drained soil. On heavy soil, consider building a raised bed.
- Dig a trench 18" wide and 8" deep. Mix the soil from the trench with compost or aged manure. Set it aside.
- If building a raised bed, work some aged manure or compost into the soil surface to a depth of 4"-6". Plan on your raised bed to be 10"-12" deep when finished.



- Soak the asparagus roots for 1-2 hours in water.
- Lay the roots on the floor of the trench or raised bed.
- Spread each root mass out so they do not overlap— at least 12" apart, preferably 18" apart.
- Cover the roots with 2"-3" of soil-compost mix.
- Water in.
- As the spears begin to grow, slowly add more soil

compost mix until the trench is full, or the raised bed is 10"-12" high. This should take about 6-8 weeks.

CARE AND HARVEST OF ASPARAGUS

- The first spring, do not harvest any spears. The second spring, harvest spears sparingly. Stop harvesting when the spears are the size of a pencil or smaller. Established beds can be harvested usually for 6-8 weeks.
- Water the asparagus bed during dry summer weather. Keep it weeded and mulched. Feed using a good quality vegetable fertilizer.
- Control asparagus beetles by hand picking, or with pyrethrin/ rotenone, neem oil, or malathion. Control aphids with horticultural soap.