

ASPARAGUS

Asparagus— A long term investment!

*A well prepared, well
cared for asparagus bed
can be productive for
ten years or more!*

AT-A-GLANCE

pH: 7.2 or higher

In-row spacing, green:

12" - 14" between plants

In-row spacing, purple:

6" - 8" for purple varieties

Between rows: 5'



Planting

Choose a permanent location with well-drained soil, in full sun.

It is best if you prepare the site a year in advance. Remove all perennial weeds. Have a test done to be sure the soil is in the correct pH range and that it contains high levels of phosphorous. An application of lime may be needed to adjust the pH. If the phosphorous level is low, we recommend adding bone meal (½ lb. per 10' row) or super phosphate into the trench at planting. Spread phosphorous and lime thoroughly at the bottom of the 8" - 10" deep planting furrow. Top-dressing with phosphorus is not effective.

For heavier, clay-like soils, 6" - 8" deep furrows are recommended. Planting crowns too shallowly encourages early spear emergence, higher probability of frost injury and greater possibility of winter kill of crowns. In the early spring, at least 2 - 3 weeks prior to planting, incorporate 5 lbs. of 10-10-10 per 100 sq. ft. If you have not fertilized 2 - 3 weeks before planting, side-dress 4 - 6 weeks later, when the plants are growing well.

Lay roots along the bottom of the furrow and cover with 2" - 3" of soil. Roots are planted horizontally, parallel to the bottom of the trench and the soil surface, not vertically like strawberry plants.

As the spears grow up and expand into fern, gradually fill in the trench with soil. You may mix up to 50% well-aged compost into the soil or add 1 lb. 10-10-10 or equivalent balanced fertilizer into the soil as you fill the trench. Within six weeks, the furrow should be completely filled. Using this method helps to limit weed development. You may wait until all the ferns are growing above the trench and fill the trench at one time.

