



## Plant Resources

# Asparagus Growing Guide

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## Getting Started!

- Asparagus requires full sun and well-drained soil to prosper ☀️
- Always start with healthy soil to increase chances of success. Add organic matter such as compost, manure, or other soil amendments when planting.



Find in store

Asparagus is a perennial plant that might last 15 years or more – so choose your planting location carefully.

- In Minnesota, asparagus is planted from early May to the first week of June.



## HOW TO PREP YOUR SOIL

Be sure to clean up the planting area thoroughly. Weed control is the largest part of growing asparagus, and starting clean is the best way to avoid weedy invaders. Using glyphosate ('Roundup') a week or two before planting will destroy both annual and perennial weeds.

### How long does it take to harvest asparagus?

It takes up to three years from planting to harvest.

## Planting

### HOW TO PLANT YOUR ASPARAGUS

- Dig a trench 8" deep and about 10" wide – enough to accommodate the outspread roots.
- Space the roots 18" apart.
- Cover the roots with 2" of soil, and continue to fill in the trench as the shoots grow. However, be sure not to bury the green shoots completely! It may take all season to fill in the trench.

## Harvesting

### WHEN TO HARVEST YOUR ASPARAGUS

- Don't harvest any spears until the third year after planting. This allows the plant to develop a large, healthy root system.
- The first year of harvest, cut for only 2-3 weeks in May – early June. As the plants mature over the years, you can increase the harvest time to 6 weeks.

Each spring, before the spears are showing, add 1 or 1.5 pounds of 10-10-10 garden fertilizer per 100 square feet. To control weeds, keep pulling them and keep mulching the bed.



Visit your nearest Abrahamson Nursery to get a quality 10-10-10 fertilizer for your gardening needs! Espoma Garden Food is recommended.

## WHEN TO CUT ASPARAGUS

When you cut asparagus, the spears should be 6 – 8” tall and the tips should be tight. Take only the thick spears and leave the spindly ones. Snap or cut the spears off at the soil line. Be careful, there may be more spears just emerging or hiding below the soil line.



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