

Asparagus Growing & Care Guide for Boise and Treasure Valley Gardens

*A local gardening guide from Five Mile Farm & Greenhouses
Boise, Idaho*

Asparagus grows very well in Boise and throughout the Treasure Valley when planted in full sun and well-drained soil. Once established, asparagus is a long-lived perennial that can produce delicious spears for 10-20 years with proper planting and care.

PLANTING

Space plants about 1-2 feet apart with about 5 feet between rows. Dig a trench 12-18 inches deep the length of your row, and add 6-7 inches of compost and a little peat moss. Sprinkle on a little fertilizer, such as Down to Earth Organic All Purpose (4-6-2). Finally, add a couple of inches of soil and mix. With this mixture, build up mounds at the bottom of the trench about 1-2 feet apart. Set each crown on the soil surface of the mound. Fill up the trench to cover them with a couple of inches of soil. This puts the soil level of the row a little below the rest of the garden. When the shoots grow up, fill in the trench with a little more soil to give the stalks support.

FERTILIZING

Asparagus benefits from compost or organic fertilizer applied in early spring and again after the harvest season. Keeping the bed well fed helps maintain strong plants and consistent production.

HARVESTING

Don't harvest spears until two years after planting the asparagus crowns. This allows the plants to put all of their energy into establishing roots. During the third season, harvest spears over a 4-week period, and by the fourth year, extend your harvest to 8 weeks. In early spring, harvest spears every third day or so; as the weather warms, you might have to pick twice a day to keep up with production! Cut asparagus spears with a sharp knife or snap off the spears at, or right below, ground level with your fingers.

After the harvest period is over, let the spears come up and grow into ferns, where they will build up and store energy in the roots for next year's harvest.

Five Mile Farm & Greenhouses
Boise's Local Garden Center Since 1983
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