



Asparagus Growing Information

Asparagus

Asparagus will produce the best when planted in full sun. Asparagus will grow in most types of soil, but since it must have dry feet, it does best in soil that drains well. Place the plants about 1 to 2 feet apart with 5 feet between rows. A healthy, mature asparagus plant can produce 10-20 spears per year. Asparagus is a long lived perennial and can produce for more than 20 years!

Planting

Dig a trench 12 to 18 inches deep, the length of your row, and add 6 to 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. 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.

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, pick the 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.