

ASPARAGUS PLANTING GUIDE



CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

Asparagus is generally considered a temperate/ cold climate plant but it is easy to grow in sub-tropical climate as it thrives on the rain.

Soils- asparagus grows best in well- drained soils with a Ph. between 6.5-7.0 and does not tolerate extremely acidic soils.

It can grow in heavy, medium or sandy soils as long as the soils are well drained.

Before planting asparagus, have the soil tested to see whether the soil has the right amount of nutrients for asparagus to thrive.

Add recommended fertilizer based on the soil test results.

NURSERY PREPARATION

- Soak seeds for 4 to 5 days using potassium nitrate (KNO_3) at a rate of 10/1litre.
- Plant in 66holed trays using peat moss. (Big holed trays are more preferable).
- Seeds are set to germinate after 15 to 20 days.
- Remove cover and use the relevant foliar and fungicides.
- Seedlings are ready for transplanting after 8weeks



TRANSPLANTING

- Seedbed is deeply ploughed because the plant has very broad and deep roots.
- The crop is transplanted at a spacing of 30 by 45cm.
- Use loose soil when transplanting, preferably introduce to sand to the soil.
- The crop is ready for harvest after 2months from transplanting. Asparagus can last 15years or more, so choose a spot carefully before transplanting.

ASPARAGUS FIELD MANAGEMENT

WATERING;

- Soil moisture is important for root and fern growth in asparagus.
- Even though asparagus don't exhibit obvious signs of drought stress, they need consistent. Soil moisture in order to stay healthy for the following year.
- Additionally, soils covered in mulch will retain more water.

WEED CONTROL;

- Weeds compete with asparagus for soils nutrients, water and light so managing weeds will help support a bountiful yield of spears.
- Newly planted crowns have very small root system, so just a few weeds around each. Plant can cause the plants to grow slowly and produce fewer spears later on.

FERTILIZER APPLICATION

- During transplanting asparagus requires D.A.P for root development since it has very deep roots.
- Top dress with Nitrogenous fertilizers, such as CAN and later NPK.
- Since Asparagus can last up to 15 years, it is best to use organic slow release balanced fertilizers.





INSECTS;

- The most common pests on asparagus is asparagus beetles.
- They damage asparagus by feeding on the spears, resulting in browning and scarring.
- Use good cultural practices to reduce disease problem.

HARVESTING;

- The length of time for harvesting asparagus each year increases gradually until the plants reach full maturity.
- The first year after planting asparagus can be harvested for about seven days, the second year the harvest period is about 14 days.
- The spears are harvested when they are between six and 10 inches long.



Disclaimer:

Please note that the planting guides have been compiled with utmost care, but the information should be handled by the user in accordance with his own knowledge and experience of circumstances on the ground. We therefore cannot accept any liability in connection with the information on the planting guide.

