

# Asparagus

**Cultural Requirements** Asparagus is a hardy perennial, native to Western Europe, which is usually started from crowns but can also be grown from seed. It grows well in most areas of the country. Asparagus beds can remain productive for 10–20 years so be sure to plant them in a permanent location that contains rich, fertile, well-drained soil. pH should be between 7.0 and 7.2. Gopher traps, wire barriers and/or wire baskets should be installed prior to planting.

**Heeling In** When your Bare Root stock arrives, open the plastic bags immediately. It is best to plant right away, within a week of delivery. If you cannot plant right away, you may “heel in” the plants to protect them and keep them alive (but still dormant) until planting in the permanent spot.

To heel in Bare Root plants outside, pick a location that is shielded from wind. Dig a trench about twice as deep as the roots are long, with one side of the trench sloping at a 45 degree angle. Place the plants, roots side down, so that the trunks/stems are supported by the sloping side. Cover the roots with soil or sand and gently tamp down to avoid air pockets. Periodically check the root area, keeping the soil moist.

To heel in Bare Root plants inside due to snow or frozen ground outside, you can store them in a cool place like a root cellar, basement, or garage. It's important choose a place where the temperature stays between 38 and 45 degrees F. This is important so the plants neither suffer frost damage, nor break dormancy. Place the roots in a container with soil or sand and be sure to keep the root area moist.

**Planting & Growing Instructions** Be sure soil is at least 50°. Dig a trench, 12”–15” deep with 4 feet between rows. Make a 6” tall cone of soil every 18” in the bottom of the trench. Drape the Asparagus roots over each cone. Fill in the trench with soil, covering the crowns 1” deep at first. As the plants grow and shoots emerge, begin covering the crowns with more soil until the trench becomes level with the soil surface. Keep the plants well watered and weeded to aid their growth. Ideally, you do not want to harvest many shoots in the first year, allowing most of the spears to set ferns and direct their energy back into becoming stronger plants. In the second year, you can begin regular harvesting of the Asparagus spears. Harvest season generally lasts about 8–12 weeks. Cut Asparagus 1–2 inches below the ground and at least 2 inches above the crown.

## *Planting & Growing Guide*

### **Dormant Nursery Stock Limited Replacement Guarantee**

We guarantee that our product(s) will arrive in good, viable condition. If your dormant bare-root stock (including potted fig and pomegranate), kiwi, grape, artichoke, asparagus, horseradish, rhubarb, or (straw/rasp/black/blue/boysen)berry does not leaf out, contact our Customer Service Department *on or before June 1st* and return the plant for inspection. We will issue you a credit for the price you paid for that plant (excluding freight) provided it does not show damage (rodent, mechanical, etc.) or root rot. This credit is redeemable toward the purchase of any other bare-root item of your choice the following year (Note: we reserve the right to not issue credit for replacement of already replaced items.) **This limited replacement guarantee does not apply to flower bulbs, citrus trees, potato seeds, olive trees, garlic, native plants, or conifer seedlings.**

### **Limitation of Remedy**

We warrant to the extent of the purchase price only that the seeds or plants sold hereunder are as described on the label within recognized tolerances. No other warranty is given, expressed or implied, of (1) the merchantability or fitness of the seeds or plants for any particular purpose, or (2) against loss due to any cause. We cannot accept any responsibility for the many uncontrollable growing and climatic conditions (soil preparation, fertilization, weed and pest control, temperature control, irrigation...etc.) that must be met to insure the success of your crop(s) or plants.

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