

Asparagus

Asparagus officinalis · *Asparagus family*

DIFFICULTY Moderate
TYPE Perennial, grown from crowns
MATURITY 2–3 years to first harvest



SUN
Full sun



WATER
Regular



SOIL PH
6.5–7.5



SPACING
30–40cm



DEPTH
15–20cm

01 Trench planting

Spread the crown over a mound at the base of a trench, then backfill gradually as spears emerge through the season — rather than filling all at once.



02 Planting

METHOD	Dig a 20cm trench, mound soil, spread the crown roots, backfill gradually as shoots grow.
SOIL	Deep, free-draining, weed-free. Asparagus resents competition and waterlogging.
TIMING	Plant dormant crowns in early spring.

04 Problems

- **Asparagus beetle** — strips foliage; hand-pick or net during active feeding.
- **Crown rot** — from waterlogged soil; ensure sharp drainage.
- **Rust** — orange streaks on ferns; choose resistant varieties.
- **Weed competition** — shallow roots; hand-weed rather than dig.

03 Growing care

- Don't harvest in the first two years — let ferns grow to build the crown.
- Water well through the growing season, especially while establishing.
- Feed generously with compost or aged manure each spring.
- Cut ferns back to ground level once they yellow in autumn.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Spears reach 15–20cm before tips begin to open.
METHOD	Snap or cut at soil level; harvest 4–6 weeks in year three, longer after.
CURING	None needed — use promptly for best flavour.
STORAGE	Fridge, stems in water, up to a week. Freezes well blanched.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY

Tomato

Parsley

Basil

Marigold

AVOID NEARBY

Onion

Garlic

ROTATION NOTE

Not applicable — long-lived bed. Choose the permanent site carefully.