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3552 West Newport Road, Intercourse, PA 717-768-3922

Planting Asparagus

Soil - In the spring finely ground limestone should be worked into the entire area, unless your soil is naturally alkaline.

Planting - The next step is to mark the area off in rows from 2½ to 4 feet apart. Dig trenches 12 to 15" wide and 6 to 8" deep along the marked rows. Cover the bottom of the trenches with a liberal amount of compost and work in with the soil. Set plants in the trench about 15 to 18" apart, depending on the size of the plants. Set the eyes of the crowns facing up. Cover roots with 2 to 3" of soil. As the shoots start to grow, gradually cover with soil until the trench is completely level. Adequate soil moisture is important during the first growing season.

Harvest - Do not cut any asparagus the first season, the second season only cut about half of the shoots. The following years cut for about four weeks, or until spears become smaller.

Maintenance - Let the foliage or brush grow freely during the summer after harvesting has been completed. The bed should be kept weeded during the growth season. Remove the brush the following spring before any growth has emerged.

Fertilizer - After brush has been removed apply limestone, if needed, and a side dressing of composted manure or 5-10-10. During the spring growing season a light supplement of 5-10-10 or liquid fertilizer can be applied every 2 weeks.