

KACKENHOFF NURSERIES LTD

GROWING ASPARAGUS

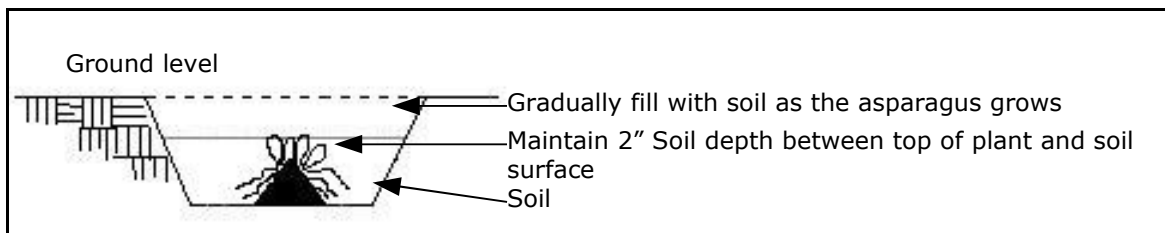
PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

Asparagus is fast becoming a very popular vegetable. Once planted, an asparagus bed can last for 15 to 20 years. Choose a sunny location and work the soil a foot deep or more, adding in plenty of organic matter such as well rotted manure, compost or peat moss, at the same time apply 1kg of 8-12-6 fertilizer per 45 feet (15m) or row.

Asparagus roots spread wide so dig a trench 8-10" (20/25cm) deep and 12" (30cm) wide. Coning the bottom of the trench allows the roots to be spread out (refer to diagram). Set the crowns 12/15" (30/40cm) apart in the row and cover with 2" (5cm) of soil. As the plants grow, gradually fill in the trench but do not cover the growing tips. For high production and thick spears, follow a twice a year feeding program. Make one application before growth starts in the spring and a second as soon as the harvest is done.

No cutting should be done the first year and only a few stalks should be cut the second year. This way the plant builds up a large reserve. The third year and from then on, asparagus can be harvested every year. Spears are ready to be cut when they are 4 to 8" (10-20cm) high.

Cut at 1" (2.5cm) below ground level. Take care not to damage adjacent emerging shoots. An established patch of asparagus will supply shoots every other day from early May until the middle of June. Cease harvest by mid-June, allowing the remaining shoots to develop and provide strength for the following year. When the last stalks are harvested, clean the patch of weeds and then fertilize with a high phosphate fertilizer.



Our Business is Growing!!