



# ASPARAGUS GROWING GUIDE



**Common Name:** **ASPARAGUS**

**Botanical Name:** *Asparagus officinalis* **Family Name:** Asparagaceae

**Plant Type:** Herbaceous Perennial **Size:** 100cm

**Planting Time:** Winter and Spring

**Planting Width:** 25cm

**Depth:** Dig a trench about 20cm deep and cover the crown with 5cm of soil. As plant grows gradually add more soil, but never cover the tip.

**Positioning:** Full Sun to Semi Shade.

**General Information:** Asparagus' fern like leaves can be used in floral arranging. The male plant produces more spears; the female plant however produces slightly larger spears. **Soil:** Well Drained. **Watering:** Regular watering is needed. **Fertilising:** Dig the soil well and add a liberal quantity of organic fertiliser prior to planting. After harvesting, re fertilise in preparation for the new growing season. **Pruning:** Spears can be cut from flat beds when they are about 15cm – 20cm long and can be cut over a period of 10 weeks from when they first appear in spring. At the end of harvesting, cut back the yellowing tops to ground level. It is better to over cut than undercut.

**Dislikes:** Humidity.

**Tips:** Generally a bed of asparagus takes up to three years to produce and the bed can last up to 15 years. Initial harvest from these crowns will be 18 mths after planting, generally during Oct and Nov.