



LANDSCAPE · NURSERY · GARDEN CENTER

GROWING ASPARAGUS

Where to grow

Asparagus prefers full sun and well-drained soil. Place in a site at the side or the end of the garden where the plants can grow and mature undisturbed. Asparagus plantings are perennial and will be in place for decades with proper care.



Planting

Dig or till liberal amounts of organic matter into the soil before planting.

- Create a trench 15" wide and 8" deep, throwing the soil off to the side.
- Place the crowns 1' apart (the fleshy root system with buds) with the roots freely splayed out in the trench with the buds pointing up. At this point it is often recommended to cover the buds with 2" of soil.
- As the buds grow you continue gently covering them with the reserve soil until they have reached the top of the trench and are fully covered.

Care

Use a balanced vegetable garden fertilizer with high nitrogen levels (nitrogen is the first number in a 5-7-3 fertilizer, for example) at the time of planting either by incorporating into the soil before planting or applying on top of the soil. Fertilize annually after you're finished harvesting. Water weekly the first year if we don't have adequate rainfall.

Harvesting

As the plants mature the spears become larger. It is recommended that you wait to harvest any spears until the third season to allow the plants to develop heavy root systems. Harvest only for three weeks the first year. Thereafter, harvest from the time they appear in spring until late May or early June.



Remember these products for delicious results!

Earth-Friendly Fertilizers

- Espoma Garden Tone 3-4-4
- Dr. Earth Tomato, Vegetable & Herb 5-7-3

Amendments & Mulch

- Chalet Organic Compost 1 cu.ft.
- Cotton Burr Compost 2 cu.ft.
- Dehydrated Manure 40#

Insect Control

- Espoma Slug & Snail Control

Where to grow

Garlic prefers full sun and well-drained soil. Garlic is a *perennial* member of the onion family that is *harvested as an annual*. Each bulb contains multiple “cloves” that are planted individually to produce a new plant.



Planting

While not fussy, garlic will perform best in loamy soils that have been tilled or cultivated. This should include the addition of liberal amounts of organic matter and a balanced vegetable garden fertilizer. Hard, compacted soils will not produce good results.

Spring garlic should be planted as soon as the soil is workable to permit the longest season possible for full development.

- Plant the cloves 1-2” deep, 6-8” apart.
- Make sure the cloves are in an upright position, with the tips pointing straight up to guarantee a straight neck.
- If you see flower spikes emerging, cut them off.

Harvesting

Bulbing starts in June and bulbs can be dug when the tops start to yellow, usually in July or August. Wait to harvest as the leaves start drying back, but while there are still 5 or so green leaves remaining. Place the harvested bulbs on a tray or slatted screen, removing the tops when dry. Bulbs can be braided or bunched with string, then hung in a cool, dry, airy place. They will last for months.



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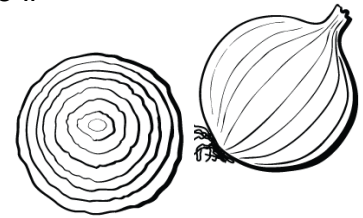
Amendments & Mulch

- Chalet Organic Compost 1 cu.ft.
- Chalet Leaf Mulch 1 cu.ft.
- Cotton Burr Compost 2 cu.ft.
- Dehydrated Manure 40#

Whether red, yellow or white, all onions from “sets” can be harvested early in the season to produce either green onions or later for “dry” onions. Store sets in a cool, dry place if planting must be delayed.

Where to grow

Onions prefer full sun and well-drained soil. Soil should be tilled and loosened prior to planting.



Planting

Decide before planting if you want onions for “green” or “dry”. If you want both, first divide the sets based on whether they are larger or smaller in diameter than a dime. Those that are larger than a dime will be harvested first as green onions. The smaller sets will be grown on and harvested later as dry onions.

- Green onions: plant the larger sets (> than a dime) 1.5” deep and touching each other.
- Dry onions: plant the smaller sets (< than a dime) 1” deep, 2-4” apart.
- At 2” spacing, harvest every other plant as green onions early in the season, leaving the remainder to develop into dry onions.

Harvesting

Green onions: Pull any time the tops are 6” tall.

Dry onions: Any plants that have produced flowers should be harvested immediately as they will not store well as dry onions.

- Harvest when the green tops start falling over, usually late July or early August.
- Pull the onions in the morning and allow to air dry until late afternoon.
- If it’s hot, move the bulbs to a shaded spot and allow them to dry thoroughly.



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Where to grow

Rhubarb prefers full sun and well-drained soil. Place in a site at the side or the end of the garden where the plant can grow and mature undisturbed. Like asparagus, rhubarb is a perennial and will be in place for decades with proper care.



Planting

Rhubarb is a heavy feeder so incorporate large amounts of coarse organic matter like dehydrated manure or compost into the planting bed. It is highly advisable to include a complete vegetable fertilizer, too, as you are digging the bed to make sure the soil is loose. Set the plants 3' apart with the buds about an inch below the soil surface.

Care

Rhubarb is relatively care-free. Apply the equivalent of an inch of water per week if we are not getting regular rainfall, especially the first year.

Harvesting

Do not harvest the first season after planting. Thereafter, harvest in spring (for up to two weeks) when the leaves reach full size. After that mature plants can be harvested for 4-6 weeks. Use a twist to remove the stalk from the plant and never remove more than 1/3 of the stems at any one time. Never harvest stalks that have survived a freeze as they may contain oxalic acid.



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