

## Introduction to Growing Asparagus

Do you want to begin growing asparagus? Or have you been growing asparagus for a long time and simply want to get fresh ideas or helpful suggestions?

Sunlight: Direct for at least 8 hours per day

Soil pH: 7.2 or higher

Spacing: 12-14" in a row for green varieties, 6-8" in a row for purple varieties  
5' between rows for green or purple varieties

Do not add compost to soil until plants are growing

Plant in furrows 8" deep. For heavier, clay-like soils, plant 6-8" deep

If frosted, tips become brown. Remove the spear immediately to prevent further setback of the planting

During harvest, asparagus roots need about 2-3" of water per week, do not let the soil get too dry

## Maintenance

Friendly reminders for our asparagus growers for the end of September.

Soon asparagus ferns will start to change color as they begin to enter dormancy. Be careful not to take this as a sign that it is time to cut your ferns! As asparagus plants go into dormancy, they continue to send carbohydrates from the ferns to the roots. These carbohydrates store as energy for next year's harvest. This process is not completed until the full plant, stems included, are dormant, totally brown. We recommend waiting until several hard frosts or better yet, in the early spring. Mowing the ferns with a rotary mower creates a nice carpet that aids in weed control.

What is your current pH? If your response is "I think it's somewhere in the mid to high 6 range", it's time to get a soil test with an accurate pH reading. We recommend a pH of 7.2 or higher. The difference between a 6.7 and a 7.2 can be fairly dramatic when it comes to yield and spear quality. Lime is an easy and relatively inexpensive way to increase your pH.

