

— THE DIGGERS CLUB —

THE *Secret* TO GROWING ASPARAGUS



ABOUT ASPARAGUS

Asparagus is a delicious perennial crop that tastes all the better when picked fresh from the garden. Best of all, growing asparagus is easy.

Asparagus can be grown from seed, or more commonly, from asparagus crowns purchased in winter while the plants are bare-rooted (without soil). Crowns look a little like an octopus; all legs with a small central crown. It is from this crown that your crop will develop, but be patient, you shouldn't harvest spears the first year, instead, let these run to fern and die down naturally.

Next year you will be able to harvest a few spears, and this will increase year after year until one crown produces around 230-240g of asparagus annually.

Plant 10 plants for each member of the family, and you'll never run short of this wonderful seasonal vegetable.

Available in green or purple varieties, white asparagus is simply green asparagus grown in complete darkness to inhibit the development of chlorophyll (which makes it green).

Asparagus is usually ready to harvest around AFL Grand Final time, continuing for up to 8 weeks when plants mature.

Long-lived perennials, asparagus will crop in your garden for around 20-25 years so it's important to select a suitable location, improve the soil prior to planting, and leave them to develop with minimal root disturbance.

PTO FOR PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS



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HOW TO PLANT ASPARAGUS CROWNS

- 1 Improve soil prior to planting. Asparagus is a long-lived crop so now is your best chance to get the soil right.
- 2 Dig a trench around 30cm deep and backfill a ridge of soil to allow the crown to sit just below ground level.
- 3 Place asparagus crowns on the mound, with the crown facing upward and the roots fanning downward. Trim roots if necessary — sometimes they can be very long or damaged.
- 4 Backfill and water well.
- 5 Mulch leaving the top of the crown clear to develop. Make sure you stake the area to avoid accidentally digging up your asparagus.

