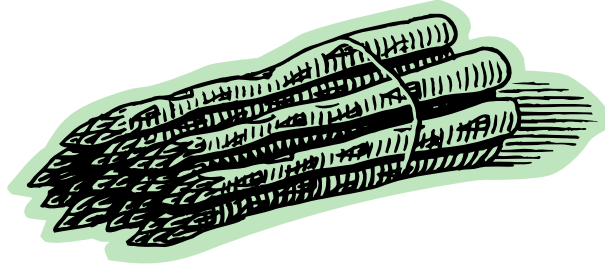


HOW TO GROW ASPARAGUS



The edible Asparagus is a Perennial and once established lives for many years. It does very well in our Metropolitan area and the cooler districts of the South West and is quite easy to grow. As the plant dies off each Winter, frosts are no problem. Light soils or sand are preferable so that the spears can push through without damage.

Prior to planting prepare the bed to spade depth and add Dawsons all purpose fertiliser plus liberal quantities of organic matter. Set the crown 20 cm deep and 30-50 cm apart at the bottom of a trench along the row. Cover with about 5 cm of soil, filling in the remainder as the fern grows. Regularly water and provide a liberal dressing of high-nitrogen fertilizer in Summer to encourage vigorous growth. In Winter cut the yellow fern down to ground level. Another fertilizer ration in late Winter encourages spears in Spring. Do not cut any spears in the first Spring after planting. Each year start cutting when spears appear (August or September depending on the district). Harvest every day or two and continue cutting for eight to ten weeks.

For white (or blanched) asparagus, hill the soil over the row to a depth of 25-30 cm in late Winter. As the tip of the spear breaks the surface, push a sharp knife through the soil to cut the spear about 15 cm below.

Similarly harvest the spear every day or so until Christmas when the hill or mound should be removed and the fern allowed to grow, thus permitting the crown to recover.

The following Winter resume the routine of removing the fern, fertilizing and hilling. For an average family 20 to 25 plants should be ample



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