

Asparagus

First Crop of the Season

By Nancy Ann

Let's talk asparagus! Two weeks ago, I spent 2 hours clearing my asparagus bed of all the weeds. I had spotted a few spear tips poking their way out of the earth. (If you already have an asparagus bed, you understand my excitement!) Since then, my family and I have been enjoying fresh asparagus with our meals. Trust me when I say that there is a definite difference between buying asparagus at the grocery store and picking it fresh from your garden.

If you don't have an asparagus bed, and love asparagus, now is the time to go buy your roots before they are sold out for the season. Don't worry if you haven't yet prepared your garden, just store them in the refrigerator until you are ready to plant. (I once stored crowns in my basement refrigerator for 3 years before I planted them. I just made sure that the peat stayed moist.)

BEFORE you do go through the effort of planting an asparagus bed, be advised that the rewards are not immediate. If you start with the 1-year crowns sold at stores and nurseries, then you will begin to harvest the third season after you plant. If you start from seed, you can plan on waiting until the 4th or 5th season.

So, if you plan to be living in the same residence for several years to come, start your asparagus bed today!

We bought a farm recently and I was **THRILLED** that there was asparagus already planted. This same bed is over 75 years old and still going strong!