

Planting Asparagus

Asparagus thrives in full sun and prefers a light, well-drained soil. Prepare a special place for it to grow where it will not be disturbed over the years. Raised beds are preferable for keeping weeds and grass out. Amend the soil 16 inches deep with compost and rotted manure. Plant the crowns about 6 inches deep and 1 ½ feet apart, cover with soil. Keep asparagus mulched with pine straw or hardwood mulch. Plants like to be moist but not wet.

Don't plan to harvest any spears the first year. Allow the plants to grow lush foliage, which is then cut back in the fall after turning brown. Harvest lightly the second year, choosing two or three of the heavier spears per plant. Allow the thin spears to grow into ferns once again. The third year, you can eat all you can cut, and the wait will be well worth it.