

Edible Landscaping!

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Food
You Eat!

Growing Asparagus

Among the earliest crops in the spring, plantings of this hardy perennial can last for decades if well cared for, and the fine foliage makes it a natural for edible landscaping. The tender spears are tastiest when eaten as soon as possible after harvest.



When & How to Plant: Carefully consider site before planting this long lived perennial. Test soil and apply phosphorus, potassium and lime as indicated before planting. Avoid frost pockets as late killing frosts will damage spears.

Plant crowns 4 to 6 weeks before average last frost, 18 to 24 inches apart in trenches 8 inches deep. Spread roots in bottom of trench and cover with 1 to 2 inches of soil. Gradually cover with more soil as the plants grow.

Maintenance & Care: Water during dry spells during the first year. Do not over water as plants don't tolerate water-logged soils.

Midsummer mulching with hay, straw, leaves or grass clippings helps controls weeds and keep soil from drying out. Regular applications of compost or well-rotted manure provide a steady source of nutrients. Weeds can be challenging. Keep plantings well cultivated and mulched to prevent weeds from getting established. Mulch heavily around planting to keep spreading weeds such as quackgrass from invading. While plants are salt tolerant, the old practice of using salt to kill weeds is not recommended. Do not cut back ferns in fall until they die naturally.

Preferred Sunlight: Full Sun/Part Shade

Preferred Soil Conditions: Prefers loose, deep soils high in organic matter. Add lime and fertilizer before establishment.

Varieties recommended for New York State:

Jersey Knight and Jersey King (widely adapted, do well in warm climates)
Jersey Giant (good for colder regions)

Source:

Cornell University, Home Gardening, Vegetable Growing Guides.
For a complete Growing Guide and additional information visit.

www.gardening.cornell.edu



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13 Archie St., Auburn NY 13021

Located off Rte 38A in Auburn (315) 253-3030 • dickmanfarms.com