

- Also known as crowns, bare root asparagus, once established, asparagus can produce every spring for fifteen to twenty years
- Planting asparagus 'crowns', aka dormant asparagus roots, actually leads to better harvest than planting seedlings. All-male varieties can be selected which leads to significantly higher yields and crowns are already one year old so will begin producing the following year, unlike seedlings in which the wait can be upwards of 2-3 years.



Planting Guide

Choosing a site:

- Plant as soon as possible. Until planting, keep roots moist but not wet, in the refrigerator
- Amend soil with compost before planting and plant in an area with good drainage and full sun

Planting/Care:

- Plant early to mid-April
- Soak roots in warm water for 30 minutes prior to planting
- Dig a trench 10" deep, make 6" cones/mounds of soil every 12-18" in the bottom of the trench.
- Rows should be approximately 2' apart (two rows will fit in a standard 4' bed)
- Place the crown (hard, round ball) on the top of the 6" cones of soil and drape asparagus roots down over all sides of the mound
- Fill in the trench and water the newly planted roots
- Make sure to keep it weeded or next year's yields will suffer. Amend soil with compost each spring.
- When the fronds die (turn brown) in winter cut them down and mulch the asparagus bed for winter

Harvesting/Storage:

- DO NOT harvest the year of planting! If you do, you will lower future yields or even kill the plant.
- The following spring, you can harvest until the spears have shrunk to the diameter of a pencil - usually 3-4 weeks.
- For the following years, you can harvest until the spear have shrunk to the diameter of a pencil - usually 6-8 weeks. Harvest by snapping 5-10" tall spears off by hand at ground level.