

*Information provided by the
University of Maine Cooperative
Extension.*

For more information on growing
asparagus, please visit the University
of Maine Cooperative Extension
website at:

<https://extension.umaine.edu/>



**Longfellow's
Greenhouses**

**Longfellow's Greenhouses
81 Puddledock Rd.
Manchester, ME 04351
(207) 622-5965
Open Daily**

Success with Asparagus



**Longfellow's
Greenhouses**

www.longfellowsgreenhouses.com



Success with Asparagus

Asparagus grows best in a sunny location with fertile, well-drained soil with a pH of 7.0-7.2. A soil test is recommended before planting asparagus so the soil can be amended if needed to adjust the pH.

Planting

- In early spring, apply 5 pounds of 10-10-10 per 100 sq. ft. and incorporate thoroughly into the soil.
- Plant the asparagus in furrows 8-10 inches deep. Set plants 12-14 inches apart in the row and space the rows 3 ft. apart. Lay crowns along the bottom of the furrow and cover with 2-4 inches of soil.
- As the spears grow up through the soil and expand into fern, gradually fill in the trench using 50% compost with the soil. This method will help keep down small weeds.
- Within 6 weeks the furrow should be completely filled.

Fertilizer

- In the first year, side dress in early August with 1 lb. of 10-10-10 per 100 sq. ft.

Bed Maintenance

- In early spring of the 2nd year, cut the old ferns down to ground level.
- Control weeds all season and water as needed.
- Be on the lookout for asparagus beetle. These insects can cause considerable damage to an established bed.
- In early spring of each succeeding year, fertilize the asparagus with 2 lbs. of 10-10-10 per 100 sq. ft.
- Test the soil pH every 3-4 years to maintain the proper pH.

Harvesting

- Research shows you can begin to harvest the year after establishment, cutting for 2 weeks. Once the spears get spindly, stop harvesting.
- The 2nd season you can harvest for 4 weeks. By the 3rd year, you should be able to harvest for the full season; 8 weeks.
- Do not remove any ferns. They will die back naturally in the fall and should be mulched in the spring to help reduce weeds.