



# Tips For Productive Asparagus

## **Asparagus that you can harvest for 20 years - *It's an investment!***

- 1) Don't harvest for the first 2 years. Let them grow into ferns and just do their thing.
- 2) During years 3 and 4 only harvest for 4 weeks, then let go again.
- 3) All harvests year 5+ only harvest for 8 weeks and then let them go.
- 4) Snap off the spear just above ground level. Never cut below the ground level or you will ruin the crown.
- 5) Crowns will slowly lift out of the ground so every other year add dirt to the top of the bed.
- 6) Don't let the female plants produce berries unless you are planning to collect seeds. Cut all berry producing spears down so the energy goes back into the plant.
- 7) Don't cut your patch down to prepare it for the spring until the ferns are all brown and there is no green.
- 8) Mulch to overwinter the crowns and in the spring pull back the mulch to help warm the ground.

## **Building a Bed**

- 1) Dig a large trench 6-8" deep.
- 2) Use 1 year old crowns from a trusted source.
- 3) Make little mounds within the trench and drape your soaked crowns over each mound, spreading the roots out.
- 4) Cover the crown mounds and water in.
- 5) In 2 weeks you should start to see growth. Cover again with 2" of soil. Repeat this step every two weeks (3 times) until you have reached ground level again.

These notes are based on the information in this video: <https://youtu.be/s5tyAXEVxVY>