

## **Asparagus**

- Sun exposure:** Asparagus performs best in full sun, though it can handle partial sun
- Soil:** Grows best in a soil with a pH of 6.5-7.2 that is amended with plenty of organic matter and rich in potassium and phosphorus.
- Planting:** Sow asparagus crowns in early spring, when the soil temperature has reached at least fifty degrees. Prepare the planting bed by making one seven-inch deep, v-shaped furrow per crown. Spread a handful of bone meal into the hole and lay the crown on its side. Fill in the furrow but take care not to cover any foliage, you can always add soil later. Weed diligently and mulch heavily with chopped leaves. Asparagus can be enjoyed for up to fifteen years so plan your planting site where they won't be disturbed.
- Fertilizing:** Organic fertilizer can be applied in late summer, and mulch the bed heavily in late fall after a frost.
- Watering:** New plantings require two inches of water per week; established plants need water only during a drought.
- Harvesting:** Plants will begin to yield crops of index finger sized spears in years two and three.