



## ASPARAGUS

Do not soak these roots, just plant directly into the ground. Since asparagus is a perennial it is usually planted at one side or end of the garden. It grows best in full sun. Soggy wet locations should be avoided. Plant roots 45 cm (18 in) apart in rich deeply prepared soil. Lighten heavy soil by digging in coarse sand. Deeply mixing leaf mold, aged manure or peat moss into the soil is beneficial. Make a row furrow 15-20 cm (6-8) deep, place the roots in and allow them to naturally flare out. Cover them with 5 cm (2 in) soil and firm the soil down. Water generously, making sure the water penetrates the soil. Fill in the trench as the shoots grow up and plants become established. Asparagus should be cut very sparingly the first year. Harvesting should only run for 6 weeks per year, subsequent shoots should be allowed to develop into ferns. Harvest the spears when they are 15 cm (6 in) above ground, cutting them below the soil level. Fertilize the plants the second and subsequent years.

