Asparagus
Planting & Growing Guide

Questions? Contact us at (888) 784-1722 or helpdesk@groworganic.com

Cultural Requirements: Asparagus is a hardy perennial, native to Western Europe, which is usually started from crowns but can also be grown from seed. It grows well in most areas of the country. Asparagus beds can remain productive for 10–20 years, so be sure to plant them in a permanent location that contains rich, fertile, well-drained soil. The soil pH should be between 7.0 and 7.2. Gopher traps, wire barriers and/or wire baskets should be installed prior to planting.

Heeling In: When your bare root plants arrive, open the plastic bags immediately. It is best to plant right away, within a week of delivery, however if you cannot plant right away, you may “heel in” the plants to protect them and keep them alive (but still dormant) until you are able to plant them in their permanent spot.

Outdoors: To heel in bare root plants outside, pick a location that is shielded from wind. Dig a trench about twice as deep as the roots are long, with one side of the trench sloping at a 45° angle. Place the hole roots side down, so that the plant is supported by the sloping side. Cover the roots with soil or sand and gently tamp down to avoid air pockets. Periodically check the root area, keeping the soil moist.

Indoors: To heel in bare root asparagus indoors, whether due to snow or a frozen ground, choose a cool place like a root cellar, basement, or garage. It’s important to choose a place where the temperature stays between 38°F and 45°F. This is important so the roots neither freeze, nor does the plant break dormancy. Place the roots in a container with soil or sand and be sure to keep the root area moist.

Planting & Growing: Be sure the soil is at least 50°F and the pH is around 7.0. If your soil is very heavy (clay), amend the soil with some good compost and add some fertilizer (with little or no nitrogen, with lots of phosphorus and potassium). Dig a trench, 6”–8” deep with 4’ between rows. Spread out the roots in the trench and space the crowns about 18” apart. Fill in the trench with soil, covering the crowns 2” deep at first. As the plants grow and shoots emerge, begin covering the crowns with more soil until the trench becomes level with the soil surface. Keep the plants well watered and weeded to aid their growth. Ideally, you do not want to harvest any shoots in the first year, allowing the spears to set ferns and direct their energy back into becoming stronger plants. In the second year, you can begin light harvesting of the spears and the third season regular harvesting can begin. Harvest season generally lasts about 8–12 weeks. Cut asparagus 1”–2” below the ground and at least 2” above the crown.

Important Information

• If your plants arrived damaged, take photographs and contact us immediately and we will provide you with a refund of the purchase price, or a replacement.

• You should plant your asparagus within a week of delivery. If you are unable to do so, you can plant it in a pot or “heel in” your asparagus until you are able to plant.

• In the rare event that your asparagus does not leaf out by May 15th, we offer a Limited Guarantee on dormant plants. See the last page for details.

Check Out Our How-to Videos & Blogs

www.groworganic.com/organic-gardening

Videos
Planting & Growing Asparagus
Fall Vegetable Care
Growing a Fall Garden
How to Heel In Bare Root Trees

Blogs
Planting & Growing Asparagus
Make Your Asparagus Bed Once & Enjoy it for 20 Years!
A Quick Guide to Crop Rotation & Vegetable Families
Perishable Items (3-Day Return Policy):
We guarantee the perishable items we sell to be in good, viable condition when we sell them. Perishable items include, but are not limited to, garlic bulbs, flower bulbs, seed potatoes, onion sets & transplants, bare-root trees, vegetable crowns... etc. If your perishable item arrives in substandard condition, please contact us within 3 days of the purchase date (or delivery date) and we will provide you with a refund of the purchase price (including shipping costs), or a replacement. Accordingly, we urge you to open any boxes marked as “Perishable” immediately upon receiving them. Because some perishable items can deteriorate very quickly, we cannot accept any claims beyond the 3-day time frame as it becomes too difficult to determine if these items were delivered in substandard condition, or if they turned into such substandard condition because of having been improperly cared for or stored once delivered.

Limitation of Remedy
We warrant to the extent of the purchase price only that the seeds or plants sold hereunder are as described on the label within recognized tolerances. No other warranty is given, expressed or implied, of (1) the merchantability or fitness of the seeds or plants for any particular purpose, or (2) against loss due to any cause. We cannot accept any responsibility for the many uncontrollable growing and climatic conditions (soil preparation, fertilization, weed and pest control, temperature control, irrigation...etc.) that must be met to insure the success of your crop(s) or plants.

Limited Dormant Tree & Plant Guarantee (When Planted in the Ground by April 1st)
Claim Deadline is June 1st (with the exception of persimmon trees, which have a deadline of June 15th). Claims placed after June 1st (or June 15th for persimmon trees) will be denied.

Please note: Our trees will come to you topped off at approximately 3 ft. in height to put the tree’s stored energy into root development vs. foliage production.

What We Guarantee
Our only guarantee is that your dormant tree/plant will arrive in good, viable condition and will leaf out by May 15th (historically 98% of our trees do). This guarantee is only available to customers who purchased their tree/plant directly from us, and who planted their tree/plant in the ground by April 1st (or temporarily in a pot if the ground in their zone was still frozen solid).

What We Cannot Guarantee
We cannot guarantee that your tree/plant remains alive & healthy, or bears fruit, as there are too many variables beyond our control in order to do so (i.e. soil preparation, planting, fertilization, weed & pest control, adequate irrigation and/or drainage, chill hours, compatible hardiness for your zone, proper choice of pollinator, etc).

How to Request a Credit
If your tree/plant does not leaf out by May 15th, please perform a scratch test by checking for green under the bark, a few inches over the graft. If the scratch test reveals a brown cambium, that means your tree/plant is dead or dying. Watch our video titled Bare Root (Dormant) Warranty on how to perform this simple test. If the scratch test revealed that your plant is dead or dying, pull it from the ground and take pictures of the entire tree/plant, including the roots. Submit your claim & pictures by using the “Return an Item” tool on our Customer Service page (or email us at helpdesk@groworganic.com) no later than June 1st (or June 15th for persimmon trees). We will review your claim and issue you a credit (not a refund) for the purchase price of your tree/plant (excluding shipping).*

(*) We reserve the right to not issue credit for items already replaced. We also reserve the right to require photographic evidence that the tree/plant was not killed by root rot, rodent or mechanical damage.