

Tips for Success

We Help You Grow: Further information and growing tips can be found at RobertasUniqueGardens.com & QVC.com

Planting Extras: Select a planting site with well-drained soil and full sun. The crowns thrive in a sandy loam soil, but they will also grow well in other well-draining soil types. Dig a trench for asparagus crowns in early spring, after the last frost. Make the trenches 5 inches deep and 6-8 inches apart. Planting deeper than 5 inches may result in reduced yields. Plant the asparagus crowns approximately 12-16 inches apart in the trenches with the buds pointing up.

Your First Crop: Asparagus will begin to sprout in late spring. Edible portions of the plants will grow 8-10" tall, with post-harvest inedible portions growing upwards of 3-4'. These vigorous large graded one-year-old crowns, production will occur rapidly in the 2nd season and beyond.

Seasonal Pruning: Always let the inedible foliage ferns remain until it's time to cut them back. Beginning in late winter/early spring, cut all of the leftover inedible ferns back even to top of the soil's surface

Asparagus: 'Jersey Knight' is the first all-male hybrid asparagus that produces purple bracted green spears. These are the most sought after for their flavor, texture, high yields, and disease-resistant ability. They are a great investment to enjoy that will yield crops for 15-20 years! This variety is very durable and cold tolerant as well as able to grow in warm temperate climates too.



Roberta's Gardens

PLANTING AND GROWING GUIDE



GENERAL GROWING GUIDE

Images shown may not be representative of your sets specific colors.

Asparagus

Asparagus Officinalis

We aren't happy if you aren't happy. If you have any questions regarding your order please call us at **1-765-525-4065** during the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 pm EST.

You can email questions to us at: customerservice@robertasinc.com.

If your bulbs, cuttings, etc. do not sprout, or your plant dies within one year from the date of shipment, we will send you a replacement free of charge. We cannot accept responsibility for losses due to extreme weather or neglect. Simply call us at the above toll free number or fill out the plant replacement form on our website at RobertasUniqueGardens.com.

Roberta's will replace it with a similar or comparable plant at no charge. If your replacement is not available or it is too late in the season to ship, it will ship the following year.

Perennials



Roberta's Unique Gardens

P.O. Box 368, Waldron, IN 46182

Monday - Friday 8:30AM - 4:30PM EST

RobertasUniqueGardens.com

@robertasgardens Roberta's Unique Gardens

Quick Reference

 **Plant Type** Edible

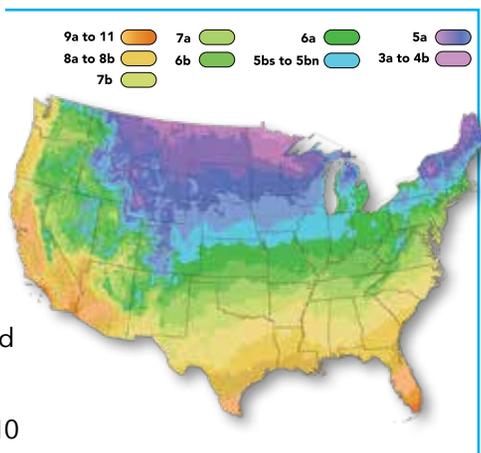
 **Light/Sun** Full Sun

 **Mature Height** 8-12"

 **Mature Spread** 3-4'

 **Bloom Time** Late Spring through Early Summer (second season)

 **USDA Hardiness Zones** 3 to 10



Plant Caretaking

Upon Arrival: Please take the bare roots out of their plastic bags. It is best to trim away any yellow or brown leaves that may have occurred. This initial grooming will help encourage fresh new growth. You may store bare roots in the fridge for up to 3 weeks if you can not plant immediately.

Planting Depth & Spacing: Dig a furrow 5 to 6 inches deep. Space about 12 to 16 inches apart. Place them to the bottom of their holes. Fill furrows with soil without packing down. It does not matter if they are not straight up

Potted Plants: Although Asparagus prefers to be at home in the garden, you can plant them in pots. The keys for a pot for asparagus is drainage and size. Be sure to use a pot that is at least 20" deep and 20" in diameter, using preferably a plastic pot due to its subtle moisture absorption. Extreme drainage is a must-have for potted asparagus. Try a few things like adding rocks to the bottom of your pot, or add some drainage holes to help avoid your plant getting "wet feet"(root rot).

Soil Preparation: If you soil is clayish, amend it with standard potting mix to improve drainage

Watering: Water them thoroughly. Keep the top few inches of soil moist in summer. They do not need heavy watering as the roots go deep.

Fertilizer: Beginning the second year, apply twice yearly. This helps promote new growth and production from year to year. For best results use a well-balanced plant food, such as Roberta's Bounty, once in early spring after you have cut back the previous year's fern growth. Apply again as soon as the harvest is complete.

Pet Considerations: Ensure your pets do not consume plants. Some plants are toxic to pets. Do your diligence to protect your pet.

Harvesting: In early spring during the second season, cut back all previous year growth. In late spring and early summer, new stems will grow upward and are the edible portion of plants. Harvest at 8 to 10 inches tall. At the end of the harvest period, snap off all remaining spears at the ground level.

Winter Care: Wait for the ferns to die back naturally. In late fall, after the first hard frost, the tall ferny tops will turn yellow or brown. Once they are completely brown and dry, cut them down to about 2 inches above the soil. Don't cut too early, the ferns feed the roots until frost kills them. Remove all the cut fern material and discard it (don't compost) if you had any pest or disease issues, like asparagus beetles or rust. This helps prevent overwintering pests and diseases. Late fall is a good time to apply a 1, 2 inch layer of compost or aged manure over the bed before mulching, it'll feed the crowns as nutrients leach down over winter.

Planting Steps

Step 1 Each bundle contains 10 roots. Wait until soil temperatures have warmed to 50 degrees before planting. They like full sun.

Step 2 Select an area that has at least 40 square feet to plant. Dig furrow 5 to 6 inches deep. Space about 12 to 16 inches apart. Place them to the bottom of their holes. Fill furrows with soil without packing down. It does not matter if they are not straight up.

Step 3 Water them thoroughly. Keep the top few inches of soil moist in summer. They do not need heavy watering as the roots go deep.

Step 4 During the first year, let stems develop to grow and fern out without picking or pruning.

Step 5 In early spring during the second season, cut back all previous year growth. In late spring and early summer, new stems will grow upward and are the edible portion of plants. Harvest at 8 to 10 inches tall. At the end of the harvest period, snap off all remaining spears at the ground level.

