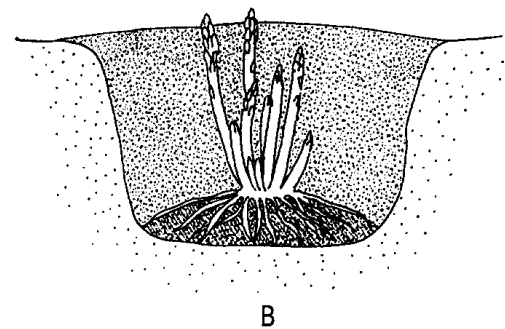
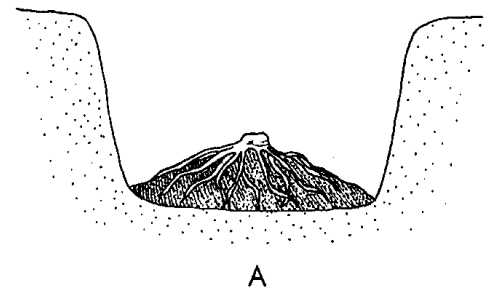


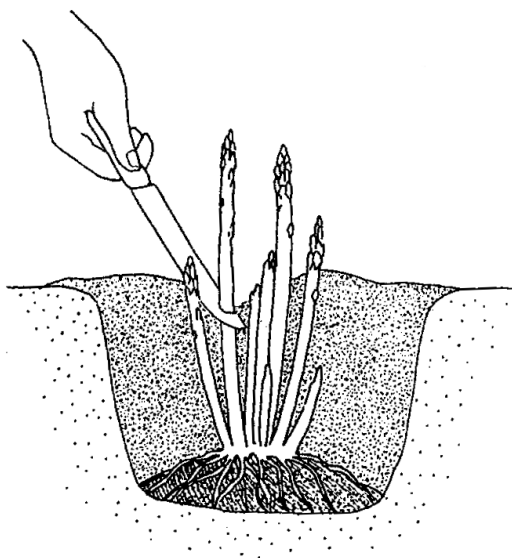
Growing Asparagus

Location: Asparagus prefer a sunny, well-limed, fertile soil. The soil should be moist but well-drained.

Planting: Before planting, work lots of peat moss, compost, or well-rotted manure into the area. Mark your area into rows 30-42" apart. Dig an 8-10" deep and 12-15" wide trench along the marked row. Build a 3-4" mound of compost and topsoil in the bottom of the trench. Place the crown of roots (where the roots come together) on the mound and spread the roots down over the mound. Plants should be planted 15" apart. Cover the roots with 2" of topsoil. As the shoots begin to grow, gradually cover them with topsoil until the trench is level with the surrounding area. Be careful not to cover the growing tips. Do not harvest any asparagus the first year and only lightly the second year. If the spears are skinnier than your middle finger, don't harvest them at all.



(A) Set asparagus root crowns in a prepared 8- to 10-inch deep trench, and (B) gradually fill in the trench once the plants are actively growing, taking care not to cover the growing tips.



Harvest asparagus by cutting the spear just below ground level when it is about a finger's thickness.

Maintenance: Let the ferny foliage grow during the summer. When the foliage turns brown in fall, cut it to 6-8" off the ground. Apply a loose layer of compost or mulch around the asparagus plants to help control weeds. Fertilize every spring with 5-10-10 or 10-10-10 fertilizer and apply a dusting of ground limestone.

Harvest: A bed of 100 plants should supply a family of four with this delicious plant for at least 20 years. Start cutting asparagus when they are about a fingers thickness. Cut the spears just below ground level. Be sure to leave enough skinny spears to grow into foliage that will nourish the plant.