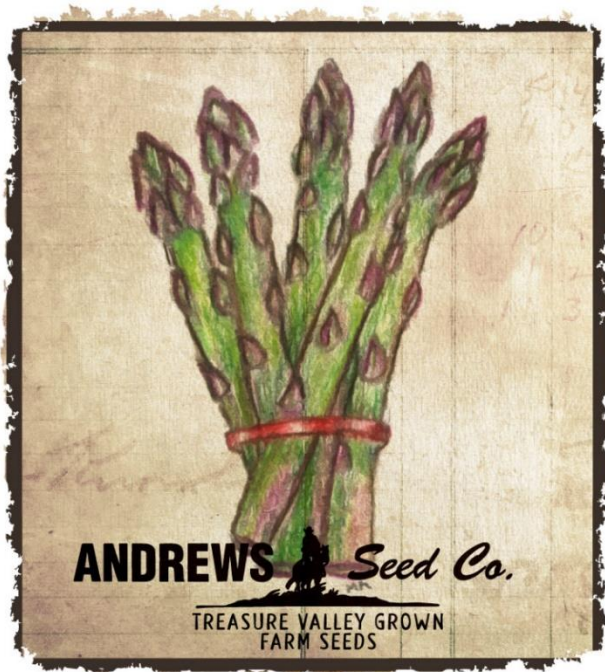


MARY WASHINGTON

Asparagus

Mary Washington produces tasty shoots that are thick and dark green with a hint of purple. Highly resistant to asparagus rust. Perennial and high-yielding year after year.



NOTES

VARIETY INFO

Botanical Name: *Asparagus officinalis*

Plant Dimensions: 36" - 48" Tall

Days to Maturity: 120

Zone: 3 - 9

SOWING INFO

Sow Outside: Direct sow seeds in in spring when the soil is at least 60 degrees F.

Start Inside: Start asparagus seeds indoors 8-12 weeks before outdoor planting date in spring in peat pots, plastic pots or trays. At least 2 x 2 Inch cells works best. Soak seeds overnight to weaken the hard outer layer, then plant 1/4" deep and 2" apart in a temporary nursery bed.

Days to Emerge: 10 - 14 days

Seed Depth: 1/2"

Seed Spacing: 12"

Row Spacing: 12" - 14"

Thinning: 12 inches apart when two sets of leaves.

GROWING INFO

Harvesting: Perennial asparagus can be harvested in the second year, but healthier roots develop when serious harvesting begins in the third year. Spears may be harvested as soon as they appear in the spring until early summer; a height of 8" is usually the optimum size. Rather than cutting the spears, bending them until they break gives you only the tender part of the spear. When the weather gets hot, it is best to let the spears fully develop with ferny tops to ensure a healthy crop the next year.

Fruit: On average, spears should be 6-8 inches tall.