



PERENNIAL VEGETABLES

ARTICHOKES

Planting

Space plants 3 feet apart with 3 feet between rows. Carefully remove Artichoke from pot. Gently massage and loosen roots. Dig a hole as deep as the pot but twice as wide. Set root ball in the hole. Backfill hole with amended soil (50% high quality compost, 50% native soil). Artichokes need full sun and good drainage.

Care and Feeding

Fertilize with a vegetable fertilizer in early spring and again about mid-summer. Annual varieties produce the first year, then are pulled out at the end of the summer, much like other vegetables; perennial varieties don't start producing until the second year, but will come back the following spring, and may even expand slowly into a clump. For perennial varieties, cut back just above soil level in fall and mulch with straw or leaves for winter production. Younger plants (pups) will often form around the base of the parent plant; after a couple of years, consider separating them for replanting to avoid overcrowding. Perennial artichokes maintain good productivity for 4-5 years on average.

Harvest

Harvest artichokes in late summer and leave about an inch of stem.

Varieties

Green Globe - a perennial artichoke, produces 3-4 heads each year around 4-5". The classic choke, broad, thick, and flavorful.

Imperial Star – an annual artichoke, produces 6-7 chokes that are slightly smaller but almost thornless.

Violetta – perennial, produces 3-4 purple heads that are smaller and slightly more slender than Green Globe, but also later in the season, extending the harvest period.

ASPARAGUS

Planting

Space plants 12 to 24 inches apart. Dig out a trench about 12 to 18 inches wide. For in-ground planting, plant crowns about 5 to 6 inches deep; for planting in a raised bed, plant crowns 12 inches deep. Asparagus likes rich deep well-drained soil. Take individual crowns and place finger-like roots down with the pointy nub upwards, then cover with about 2 inches of soil. Once they push growth (1-2 inches tall) continue to cover new growth with 2 inches of soil. Stop covering new growth once the trench soil line is met.

Care and Feeding

Fertilize with a vegetable fertilizer late winter or spring, and again in late spring-early summer. In fall, cut all stems and greenery and use them to mulch over the planting area.





PERENNIAL VEGETABLES

Harvest

Do not harvest the first year, this allows the asparagus to establish and become more vigorous. The second year after planting snap off tender young shoots at about 6 inches long in early spring. For the first several years only harvest for about 2 to 4 weeks as the plants age harvest can continue for 5 to 6 weeks.

Varieties

Jersey Knight - high quality, high yielding variety that is very cold hardy and disease resistant.

Sweet Purple – Purple asparagus that turns green with cooking. Similar yield to Jersey Knight. Distinct, light-nutty flavor. Yield is pretty good and flavor exceptional, but because of the higher percentage of female plants production may be noticeably lower.

HORSERADISH

Planting

Prepare a planting area about 10" wide and deep, with 24" between plants, and add some compost to lighten the soil. Plant root portion about 6" deep at about a 45 degree angle.

Care and Feeding

Horseradish is very tough, with few requirements. Fertilize at planting and again late spring to early summer with a vegetable fertilizer. Be aware that some common pests such as cabbage moths can be a problem

Harvest

Harvest in fall or winter. Dig entire clump carefully- even small pieces of root left may re-grow. You will want the main tap root for eating, but you may save some lateral forks or branches for re-planting- rotating to a new location is a good idea.

RHUBARB

Planting

Rhubarb need deep rich moist soil that is well-drained. Space plants at least 3 feet apart with 5 feet between rows. Dig a hole that is about 15 inches deep and about 24 inches wide. Mix the soil from the hole 50% high quality compost with 50% native soil; with this soil create a mound in the center of the hole and place the crown on top. Back-fill the hole with the remaining soil. Mulch in a doughnut around the crown in summer to keep plants cool and moist. Never mulch over crown.

Feeding

Fertilize with a balanced granular vegetable food – fertilize in early spring as new growth emerges.





PERENNIAL VEGETABLES

Harvest

Do not harvest the first year after planting. In the second year harvest lightly during the first half of summer. Twist-off up to 6 stalks per plant. Cut off all flower-stalks as soon as they emerge. After they are established up to 20 stalks per plant over a summer can be harvested.

Varieties

Crimson Red – Plump flavorful red stalks are fiber-free, and sweet with balanced tartness.

Victoria – Old fashioned rhubarb has prolific green stalks with a red blush. Very tart and best suited to cooking.

