## Sowing instructions

## Asparagus

Soaking: yes, 24 hours

<u>Indoor sowing:</u> march - april

Outdoor sowing: april - may

Sowing depth: 1 - 2 cm

Germination: 14 -16 days

Germinationtemp.: 18 - 21°C

Sowing distance in rows: 10 cm

Plant distance: 30 - 45 cm

Plant position: sunny with some shade

Soak the seeds 24 hours before sowing in some tepid water. Sow from march on in seperate pots. Sow 2-3 seeds per pot and cover the seeds with about 1-2 cm soil. Put the pots away in a propagator or a windowsill. Cover the pots with some clingfilm or a lid to preserve the moisture.

Remove the lid or clingfilm when the seedlings emerge. Thin the seedlings to 1 strongest per pot when they're large enough to handle. Transplant the seedlings eventually to larger and deeper pots. Let the seedlings acclimatize to outside conditions in may, when there's no longer any danger of nightfrosts. Plant them after a couple of days on a sunny plot with some shade and free draining soil. Plant them about 30-45 cm apart. Keep moist and weedfree.

Sow outdoors from april on, when the soil is warming up. Cover the seeds with a layer of soil about 1-2 cm thick. Keep moist and weedfree. Transplant the seedlings, when they're large enough to handle, to a sunny plot with some shade and free-draining soil.

Cover the plants in august with soil to prevent them from turning purple. Fertilize the plants because they need it to grow. Harvest the asparagus the second year after sowing. After the 3rd year it's possible to harvest all the plants. Harvest them with a pitchfork. Use the harvested asparagus the same day or store them in a moist tea-towel in the fridge for a day or two. Asparagus can be harvested from april till mid june.