

Free Workshops

Did you know? KCCG offers 40+ free gardening and cooking workshops each year. With topics ranging from an introduction to vegetable gardening to tips and tricks for pest management and cooking demonstrations with fresh garden produce, we welcome everyone from beginner gardeners to seasoned pros.

See the schedule and register at:
kccg.org/workshops

Online Resources

KCCG's website offers guide sheets on a wealth of gardening topics, including watering, fertilizing, pest management and more!

Find them at
kccg.org/gardening-guidesheets

Our vast library of online videos can help you with most anything including planting, maintenance, harvesting, and cooking.

Find them at
kccg.org/how-to-videos

Together We Grow

KCCG provides seeds, plants, resources and education that help more than 42,000 households to grow more than 1.5 million pounds of healthy food each year.



@KansasCityCommunityGardens



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www.kccg.org



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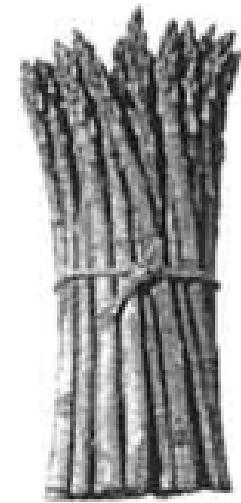
**6917 Kensington Ave
Kansas City, MO 64132**

Volunteer

Volunteers help to fill seed packs, start transplants, build raised garden beds, and more! We have opportunities for everyone.

To join the fun, visit
www.kccg.org/volunteer

Growing Asparagus



KCCG's Variety

Jersey Knight - A male variety that is adaptable to most garden sites. Productive once established.

Planting:

Place the plants in a trench 12 to 18 inches wide and a full six inches deep.

The crowns should be spaced 9 to 12 inches apart.

Spread the roots out uniformly, with the crown bud side up, in an upright, centered position, slightly higher than the roots.

Cover the crown with two inches of soil.

Gradually fill the remaining portion of the trench during the first summer as the plants grow taller.

Asparagus has the tendency to "rise" as the plants mature, the crowns gradually growing closer to the soil surface.

Many gardeners apply an additional 1 to 2 inches of soil from between the rows in later years.

Care:

As asparagus plants grow, they produce a mat of roots that spreads horizontally rather than vertically.

In the first year, the top growth is spindly.

As the plants become older, the stems become larger in diameter.

Following freezing weather in the fall, the asparagus tops should be removed to decrease the chances of rust disease overwintering on the foliage.

Because asparagus remain in place for years, advance soil preparation helps future production greatly.

Working green manure crops, compost, manure, or other organic materials into the proposed bed well in advance of planting is a good approach.

Asparagus should be fertilized in the same way as the rest of the garden for the first 3 years. Use 4lbs of chicken manure per 100 square feet or 2lbs of 12:12:12 fertilizer per 100 square feet.

Weeds and grasses are worse problems with asparagus. They compete with developing spears, make an unsightly area in the garden and significantly decrease yield and quality. Start frequent, light, shallow cultivation early in the spring in both young plantings and mature patches that are being harvested.

Harvest and Storage:

Asparagus can be harvested the third year after planting crowns, but for no more than one month the first season. The plant is still expanding its root storage system and excessive removal of spears weakens the plants.

During the fourth year and thereafter, the spears may be harvested from their first appearance in the spring through May or June (as long as 8 to 10 weeks).

Harvest spears 5 to 8 inches in length by cutting or snapping.

To cut a spear, run a knife into the soil at the base of the spear and carefully sever it. Because the spear is cut below the point where fiber develops, it becomes necessary to remove the fibrous base from the tender stalk. Cutting may damage some spear tips that have not yet emerged from the ground.

To snap a spear, grasp it near the base and bend it toward the ground. The spear breaks at the lowest point where it is free of fiber.

Either method is acceptable. Cutting is often preferred by commercial growers and snapping by home gardeners. Asparagus deteriorates rapidly after harvest. If it is not eaten immediately, it should be processed or refrigerated.