



Hargreaves Plants

Asparagus - Variety Fact File

Varieties: Purple Asparagus

Distributor: *Hargreaves Plants* holds the head licence to these New Zealand bred varieties in the whole of Greater Europe

Breeder: Peter Falloon, Aspara Pacific, New Zealand

Colour: Purple or Super-sweet white

Climate: Temperate / Cool

Soil Type: Preference towards deep, open structured soils—peat, sands or sandy loams that do not compact.

Density: 44000 crowns / hectare

Market Type: Supermarket, fresh market, direct retail

Yield: Commercial trials have shown these Purple varieties to out-yield many of the green types, and significantly, the Californian variety, Purple Passion.

Disease: Tolerant of *Fusarium*

Further Info: The Purple selections are tetraploid varieties and as such they are sweeter, more tender and have a greater shelf life than green asparagus. Purple asparagus is an ideal addition to ready-to-eat salad packs and mostly sells at a premium to the green varieties. Its' tenderness and high sugar levels mean that it can also be grown for super-sweet white asparagus. The low fibre content within the spears means that the white spears do not require peeling prior to cooking. This is an exciting new addition to the variety range available.



Purple asparagus ready to eat

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