

ASPARAGUS BEETLE IPM CHECKLIST

Pre-Season (Late Winter to Early Spring)

- Remove and dispose of previous year's asparagus fern debris.
- Inspect crowns and soil for overwintering adult beetles.
- Plan trap cropping (e.g., edge rows of older asparagus or ferns).
- Incorporate flowering strips or beneficial insect habitats nearby.

Early Season (May - June)

- Begin weekly scouting for adult beetles, larvae, and eggs.
- Record pest counts and check against threshold levels.
- Handpick adults and larvae in early morning or late evening.
- Harvest spears every 2-3 days to reduce egg-laying opportunities.
- Apply neem oil or insecticidal soap if populations exceed threshold.

Mid-Season (June - July)

- Release parasitoid wasps (*Tetrastichus asparagi*) if using.
- Use beneficial nematodes if soil pupation is high.
- Use OMRI-certified sprays like spinosad or pyrethrin as needed.
- Continue handpicking and scouting twice weekly.

Late Season (July - August)

- Monitor berries and ferns for spotted beetle activity.
- Apply targeted treatments on trap crops or fern borders.
- Irrigate and fertilize to maintain strong fern growth.

Post-Season (Fall)

- Cut and compost or burn all asparagus ferns.
- Rake and clean the soil around the asparagus bed.
- Note infestation levels and treatment effectiveness for next year.