

# Asparagus officinalis

## COMMON NAMES

asparagus

## BIOSTATUS

Exotic

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Monocots

## FLOWER COLOURS

Cream, White

## GENUS

Asparagus

## FAMILY

Asparagaceae

## AUTHORITY

Asparagus officinalis L.

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## YEAR NATURALISED

1870

## ORIGIN

Europe, W. Asia, Siberia, N. Africa

## POISONOUS PLANT

Small red berries are mildly poisonous.

## ETYMOLOGY

**asparagus:** An old Greek name for this plant possibly derived from a- (an intensifier) and sparasso 'to tear', referring to the prickles of some species

**officinalis:** From the Latin officina shortened from opificina which originally meant 'workshop' but later came to mean a monastic storeroom, herb-room or pharmacy. Refers to the plant's real or perceived medicinal value.

## NVS CODE

ASPOFF

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/asparagus-officinalis/>

## PDF DATE

25 May 2026



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