

The extended BBCH-Scale of asparagus plant

Principal growth stage 0: germination/ sprouting/ yield of white asparagus

- 00 Stem: Dormancy of the rootstock
 Seed: Dry seed
- 01 Stem: First shoot just visible (< 5 mm)
 Seed: Beginning of seed swelling; radicle not visible
- 03 Seed: End of seed imbibition
- 05 Seed: Radicle emerged from seed
- 06 Stem: Beginning of shoot growth (> 5 mm)
 Seed: Elongation of radicle, formation of root hairs and/or lateral roots
- 07 Stem: Shoots grow to the soil surface
 Seed: Tip of the plant breaking the seed coat
- 08 Stem: Shoots just before breaking soil surface
- 09 Stem: Shoots breaking soil surface
 Seed: Emergence; primary shoot breaks through the soil surface

Principal growth stage 1: development of the seedling

- 11 First phylloclade completely separated on the first shoot
- 12 First phylloclade completely separated on the second shoot
- 13 First phylloclade completely separated on the third shoot
- 1X First phylloclade completely separated on the xth shoot
- 19 First phylloclade completely separated on the ninth shoot (and above)

Principal growth stage 2: formation of side shoots (> 5 cm)

- 21 1-5 side shoots

- 22 6-10 side shoots
- 23 11-15 side shoots
- 24 16-20 side shoots
- 25 21-25 side shoots
- 26 26-30 side shoots
- 27 31-35 side shoots
- 28 36-40 side shoots
- 29 more than 40 side shoots

Principal growth stage 3: stem elongation

- 31 Longest shoot up to 10 cm long
- 32 Longest shoot up to 20 cm long
- 33 Longest shoot up to 30 cm long (harvest of green asparagus)
- 34 Longest shoot up to 40 cm long
- 35 Longest shoot up to 80 cm long
- 36 Longest shoot up to 120 cm long
- 37 Longest shoot up to 160 cm long
- 38 Longest shoot up to 200 cm long
- 39 Elongation growth of the longest shoot is ceased

Principal growth stage 5: inflorescence emergence

- 51 First inflorescence or flower buds visible
- 55 First pedicles clearly stretched (first phylloclades are visible)
- 59 First petals visible; flowers still closed

Principal growth stage 6: flowering

- 60 First flowers open

- 61 Beginning of flowering: about 10% of flowers open
- 63 about 30% of flowers open
- 65 Full flowering: at least 50% of flowers open
- 67 Flowers fading: majority of petals fallen
- 69 End of flowering: all petals fallen

Principal growth stage 7: development of fruit

- 70 First fruits (berries) visible
- 75 50% of fruits have reached final size
- 79 Nearly all fruits have reached final size

Principal growth stage 8: fruit ripening

- 81 Fruits still green
- 83 Beginning of fruit colouration (fruits yellowish)
- 85 Advanced fruit colouration (fruits yellowish - reddish)
- 86 Advanced fruit colouration; nearly all fruits reddish
- 87 Nearly all fruits are dark red; not yet burst

Principal growth stage 9: senescence, beginning of dormancy

- 91 10% of the phylloclades are discoloured (yellowish)
- 92 50% of the phylloclades are discoloured (yellowish)
- 93 All phylloclades are yellow and fallen down
- 95 Side shoots are discoloured
- 97 Plants parts above ground are dead