

Borski, Jennifer - DNR

From: Borski, Jennifer - DNR
Sent: Friday, May 29, 2020 1:34 PM
To: Nicole Beardsley
Cc: Kilburg-Basnyat, Brita J - DHS; Eggebrecht, Kurt
Subject: RE: Rhubarb & asparagus at 801 S. Outagamie St, Appleton (N W Mauthe SF, BRRTS #02-45-000225)

Nicki – I received additional input from the City of Appleton Health Officer, Kurt Eggebrecht, and copied him on this reply. His message and contact information is cut and paste below:

....my only input would be as they plant in a raised bed we should advise they have sufficient soil (two feet) as the roots are placed a foot deep.

*Thanks again-
Kurt*

1. **How to plant asparagus:**
1. Dig a trench a foot deep and 18 inches wide.
2. Fan the asparagus roots
3. Lay them at 2 foot spacing
4. Cover the fragile roots gently with 2 inches of garden soil.

Kurt Eggebrecht
Health Officer
Appleton Health Department
920-832-6429

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Jennifer Borski

Phone: (920) 424-7887

Cell: (920) 360-0853 – use this number during pandemic

jennifer.borski@wisconsin.gov

From: Borski, Jennifer - DNR
Sent: Friday, May 29, 2020 11:21 AM
To: Nicole Beardsley <nhalada1980@gmail.com>
Cc: Kilburg-Basnyat, Brita J - DHS <brita.kilburgbasnyat@dhs.wisconsin.gov>
Subject: Rhubarb & asparagus at 801 S. Outagamie St, Appleton (N W Mauthe SF, BRRTS #02-45-000225)

Nicki,

Thank you for your patience with your gardening question. I was able to speak with my partners at the State Dept. of Health (DHS) this morning about your request and bring them up to speed on the history of the N W Mauthe case. DHS provides you with two options:

1. Use raised bed gardening;
2. Bring in clean topsoil high in organics to mix with your current topsoil prior to planting the rhubarb and asparagus, which are not root vegetables (e.g., carrots, potatoes).

In both instances, you should follow best management practices for gardening in urban areas including using gloves to protect your hands, peel skins from any root vegetables, rinse vegetables with clean water and thoroughly wash your hands after gardening and before eating.

If you have further health-related questions, you are welcome to contact Brita Kilburg-Basnyat at DHS. She is copied on this message and her contact information is included below.

Brita Kilburg-Basnyat, Ph.D.

Toxicologist
Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health
Division of Public Health, Wisconsin Department of Health Services
1 W Wilson St, Rm 150
Madison, WI 53701
Fax: 608-267-4853
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Enjoy your weekend Nicki.

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From: Borski, Jennifer - DNR
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 6:00 PM
To: Nicole Beardsley <nhalada1980@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: Hi! Quick question!!

Hi Nicki – I hoped to hear back today from my health partners about the rhubarb & asparagus question but have no response for you yet. I cannot work on a holiday so it will likely be mid next week when I can get back to you. Sorry for the delay. Enjoy the weather this weekend. I'll be in touch with you when I hear back but feel free to poke if you're not hearing from me.

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From: Borski, Jennifer - DNR
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 11:05 AM
To: Nicole Beardsley <nhalada1980@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: Hi! Quick question!!

Hi Nicki,

It's good to hear from you. I've thought about you so much the past couple months. In short, your questions are health related and I will need to consult with some folks before getting back to you – hopefully this afternoon yet.

On a more general note, as we emerge from the Safer-at-Home order and are done with the shell shock of this pandemic, the plan for moving forward with field work continues to evolve as we learn more daily. DNR staff are working from home and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. This means my paper files are mostly inaccessible and I have to rely on looking back through emails to reconstruct our plans. Price quotes have expired and have to be redone. Funding for field work is all getting re-evaluated on a case-by-case basis and being prioritized. This means that the work we planned to do in your yard in March/April is postponed. Hopefully we will get it done this summer yet though. My ability to go out to properties is also considered on a case-by-case basis but, at present, I am relying exclusively on communications with our consultants. In the coming weeks, I'll be reaching out to talk with you about the specifics for your property and this site as a whole.

In the meantime, I'll reach out to Health today and get you an answer ASAP.

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From: Nicole Beardsley <nhalada1980@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 10:17 AM

To: Borski, Jennifer - DNR <Jennifer.Borski@wisconsin.gov>

Subject: Hi! Quick question!!

Hi Jennifer!

Hope you are doing well through all of this, assuming you are not in the office currently, but I know you have said you check your email and guessing you should be working from home.

Anyway, I am wondering, we are doing some spring planting and have moved some flowers from my parent's house to our house, now the question is, is it ok to move a few 'root foods' in a sense. My mom has dined rhubarb that was my grandma's and I would like some of that, could we plant that safely in our ground? Since we have the raised gardens, I really don't want to plant it in there since I know it will spread. I would also like to get some asparagus and know that spreads like crazy, so wondering if that would be ok as well?

I'm only putting flowers along the 'railroad' fence line, so these would go elsewhere. I know at one time you had said that the ground was technically fine but it would be best to not take any chances. I'm wondering if there could be a test run again or if because these are not something like carrots or something that it might be ok?

Let me know your thoughts, stay safe and thank you!!!

Nicki

Nicki Beardsley, Mary Kay Independent Beauty Consultant