



# Baden-Württemberg

REGIERUNGSPRÄSIDIUM KARLSRUHE

PRESS OFFICE

## PRESS INVITATION / EVENT NOTICE

26 September 2024

### 35th Asparagus Day in Karlsruhe

**Date:** Wednesday, 20 November 2024

**Time:** 13:00 bis 16:30 Uhr

**Meeting** Messe Karlsruhe, 2nd floor, Conference Hall, D-76287 Rheinstetten-

**Point:** Forchheim, Messeallee 1

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

In co-operation with the Association of South German Asparagus and Strawberry Growers (Verband Süddeutscher Spargel- und Erdbeeranbauer e.V.), the Agricultural Office of the Karlsruhe District (Landratsamt Karlsruhe) and the Karlsruhe Regional Council (Regierungspräsidium Karlsruhe) are offering a special forum for producers as part of expoSE – the leading European trade fair for asparagus and berry production. The Asparagus Day, now in its 35th year, offers visitors the opportunity for further training and an exchange of experiences in the form of presentations and discussions.

Asparagus is an important culture for many farms in North Baden. Crop management and marketing require a high level of knowledge about current developments and trial results. Agricultural products are affected to a large extent by changing framework conditions, by trade, by sharply rising costs and also by requirements relating to sustainable production processes. Baden asparagus is a flagship product for the region and enjoys an excellent reputation beyond the region.

Department President Dr Ulrich Kraft from the Karlsruhe Regional Council will open the event. The opening lecture will once again be given by an international guest this year:

#### Espárrago del sur de España – green asparagus from the south of Spain

Antonio Zamora, manager of an asparagus farm and president of the Centro Sur cooperative as well as vice-president of the I.G.P Espárragos de Huétor Tájar consortium, will present cultivation methods and marketing of green asparagus in the south of Spain with a focus on Andalusia. Espárragos de Huétor Tájar is the cultivated form of a wild asparagus that originated in Granada in the 13th century and was revitalised at the beginning of the 20th century. The lecture and presentation will be held in Spanish and German, with hand-outs available in English.

#### Asparagus in replant

Dr Sebastian Weinheimer, Head of the Teaching and Experimental Farm for Vegetable Cultivation at the Rhineland-Palatinate Rural Service Centre (Dienstleistungszentrums Ländlicher Raum (DLR) Rheinpfalz), will present the results of the asparagus replication trial that was planted in 2020. The topic is of great importance, as a yield loss of around 20 per cent must be expected for asparagus plants in replant.

#### Asparagus fly – bean fly – what to do?

In recent years, problems with asparagus flies have increased in the plants. In addition to the loss of effective pesticides, regional weather conditions have also played a role. In the last two years, the bean fly, an almost forgotten pest, has also returned. Dr Ludger Aldenhoff, advisor to the Asparagus and Strawberry Advisory Service (Beratungsdienst Spargel und Erdbeeren BDSE) with many years of experience, will present the current situation, highlight the development cycles of the flies and explain the remaining measures to protect the asparagus rhizome and stems.

#### Spotlight

In a new format, the asparagus advisor for the Karlsruhe district (Landkreis Karlsruhe), Isabelle Kokula, will briefly summarise the most important news on the topics of ongoing asparagus trials, market innovations, plant protection, seasonal workers and upcoming dates.

### Cost explosion

The prices of fertilisers, machinery and other operating costs have risen massively in recent years. The biggest factor for asparagus as a labour-intensive crop is labour costs, which have risen by around 70 percent since the introduction of the minimum wage in 2015. Ralf Große-Dankbar, an asparagus consultant in North Rhine-Westphalia for many years with a focus on business management and price calculation, will present a self-developed cost calculation programme that can be used as a decision-making aid to determine the area on which asparagus cultivation is still worthwhile.

### Reduction of pesticides in asparagus cultivation

The Biodiversity Strengthening Act (*Biodiversitätsstärkungsgesetz*) was passed in Baden-Württemberg in July 2020. As an important component, it contains the objective of reducing the use of synthetic chemical pesticides by 40 to 50 per cent by 2030. Against this backdrop, the agricultural administration has established a network of demonstration farms where, in particular, practical methods for reducing the use of pesticides are being developed, researched and established as a discussion and training platform. Tom Terbrüggen, a member of the PPP Reduction Demonstration Farm Network at the Agricultural Technology Centre (LTZ) Augustenberg (Landwirtschaftlichen Technologiezentrum (LTZ) Augustenberg), is working with a practical farm in North Baden to develop ways of reducing plant protection products in asparagus cultivation and will report on the results of the past two years.

For the first time this year, all German-language presentations at the Asparagus Day will also be shown in English.

Angelika Appel, fruit and horticulture officer at the Karlsruhe Regional Council (Regierungspräsidium Karlsruhe), and Isabelle Kokula, asparagus advisor at the Karlsruhe District Office (Landratsamt Karlsruhe), will lead through the programme of the Asparagus Day.

It is not necessary to register for the 35th Asparagus Day, but seating is limited. To visit the Asparagus Day, it is necessary to purchase a trade fair ticket.

Representatives of the press are cordially invited to the event. We would be very pleased to receive an event notice in the run-up to the event.

Yours sincerely

Charlotte Erdmann