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*Asparagus officinalis* subsp. *prostratus*

[Synonyms : *Asparagus prostratus*]

**WILD ASPARAGUS** is a prostrate perennial. Often found growing wild in south-western coastal Europe (rare in Britain), it has small yellow or yellowish-green flowers.

It is also known as Sea asparagus.

Seeds are often distributed by birds.

Warning – some authorities believe the berries may be poisonous and should be avoided. The young foliage can cause dermatitis.

Wild asparagus is considered to be threatened in the wild in Britain.

*Officinalis* means ‘of the shop (usually the apothecary’s or herbalist’s)’. Certain plants used for medicinal purposes, whether of actual or legendary value, were kept readily available and acquired this name. *Prostratus* means ‘low-growing, prone or flat on the ground’.