

EDITORIAL

**California Asparagus Seed
and Transplants, Inc.
2815 Anza Ave.,
Davis, California 95616 U.S.A.
E-Mail: benson@davis.com**

This is the second Internet publication of the Asparagus Research Newsletter. It appears that the decision to publish the Asparagus Research Newsletter (ARN) on the Internet has been correct. I have been pleased by the positive response of the many people who have downloaded the ARN this last year. The ARN is provided without cost to those that wish to download this publication. The main focus of the ARN is and has been to provide a medium for the exchange and extension of asparagus research information throughout the world.

The year 2001 was highlighted by the convening of the Tenth International Asparagus Symposium in Niigata, Japan by Drs. Hajime Araki and Atsuko Uragami, chair and co-chair, respectively. The August 30 to September 2 symposium was attended by 81 participants representing 19 countries. More information on the meeting is included in this issue of the ARN.

Another significant inter-national meeting of the ASPIRE consortium was held in February 2002. The meeting brought together asparagus researchers from 8 EU member states to discuss and plan research activities focused on the asparagus decline problems and other relevant production problems. A brief description of the activities of ASPIRE follow in this issue.

The content of the Asparagus Research Newsletter is dependent upon the contributions of papers from research and industry personnel. The number of contributions in past editions have ranged from as few as 2 to as many as 16. I would like to encourage you to continue your submission of papers for future editions. I will accept: (1) finished research

papers, (2) updates on current research projects or programs, (3) reports on asparagus industries, (4) announcements of meetings and symposiums and (5) other topics that are of interest to the international asparagus industries and researchers.

Contributions of papers, etc. should be sent to me by E-Mail and also as a hard copy and on a floppy disc by mail to the above address. The format of the research papers should follow the protocol used in major research journals. The official language will be English.

Brian Benson

Editor