



Locati Farms

The Locati Family has been farming in the Walla Walla Valley since the early 1900s. The first Locati brothers to settle in the valley grew a variety of vegetables on a truck farm.

Together, the Locati brothers own 10 acres of asparagus. It takes up to 3 years for asparagus crowns to develop enough to begin producing shoots, but once they do, they can produce for up to 20 years.

At one time, the Locati's grew 85 acres of asparagus and sold to packing houses in the region, for export. National agricultural trade agreements caused the asparagus market to decline, but several local growers maintained some acreage in asparagus to feed the local market.

You may think that 'truck farm' is a farm close enough to urban centers that its produce may be transported by truck to the city. However, long before motorized vehicles, as far back as 1785, – the word 'truck' was used to mean garden vegetables intended for sale in the markets, originating from the root word, 'troque,' the Old French word for 'barter.'

The Walla Walla Sweet Onion is the Washington state vegetable. The Locati family was among the first to plant onions in the valley and to develop this exceptionally sweet onion, now known around the world.



Today, Bud and Michael Locati carry on the family farming tradition in the valley growing onions, asparagus, wheat, dry peas, seed beans and seed corn. The onions and asparagus are sold directly to restaurants and to consumers through farmers markets.



Bud Locati with market assistant selling asparagus and onions at the Walla Walla Farmer's Market

Healthy eating trends have increased demand for asparagus everywhere. According to the WA Asparagus Commission, more new asparagus fields were planted in the last two years, than in the past decade. Thankfully Walla Walla remains one of the prime areas to grow Asparagus.

