

1 Carrot

Roots & Bulbs

(*Daucus carota* subsp. *sativus*)

Description:

Umbelliferae

Use and how to harvest:

A hardy and versatile root vegetable, can be eaten raw or cooked many ways.

Planting:

Sow in garden. Sow seed at a depth approximately three times the diameter of the seed. Best planted at soil temperatures between 8°C and 30°C, best between Feb-Nov, not during heavy frost.
Space plants: 5 - 30 cm apart
Sun or partial shade.
Sow direct into soil.



Soil & Fertiliser:

Light, deep, well-drained soil which has not had compost or manure added recently (to avoid forked roots forming.) Over fertilised ground will produce split roots

Growth:

Carrots take about 3 weeks to show themselves and the first leaves look like grass. Thin out when the seedlings are large enough to handle if they are too close. Weed carefully during early stages.
Harvest in 12-18 weeks. Can be harvested over a long period.

Companion planting:

Compatible with (can grow beside): Onions, Leeks, Lettuce, Sage, Peas, Radishes, Tomatoes, Beans, Celery, Rosemary

Avoid growing close to: Parsnips, Beetroot, Dill, Brassicas, Fennel

Problems and what to do:

Slugs and snails love young carrot seedlings so protect early started plants, and don't leave in the ground too long as they may split and this also attracts slugs.

Rats/Possums may enjoy eating carrot tops, ensure young beds are properly secured with screening

Aphids: treat with white oil early morning or late afternoon

Carrot root fly - slender, small black-bodied flies with yellow legs and large eyes. Larvae are creamy yellow, tapering maggots, up to 9mm long and mainly found in tunnels in roots. Enclose the carrot bed with screening to keep adult flies from finding plants.