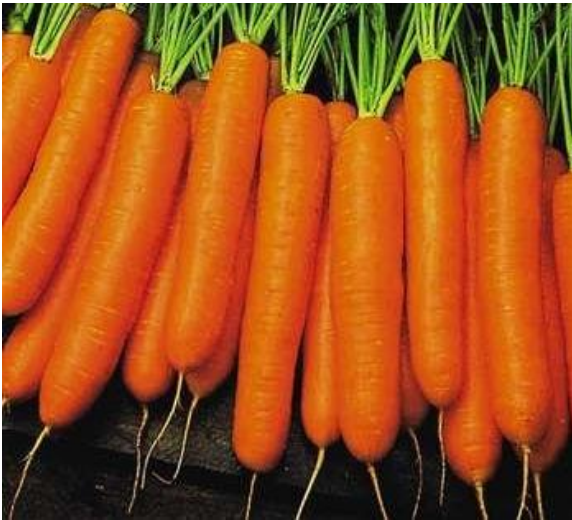




Growing Carrots

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Carrots Like it Fluffy

If there is a rock in the way, a carrot will take a detour around it. So if you want long straight carrots like you find in the store, you will have to have very light soil with few or no rocks. Never walk on the soil anywhere near them.

When to Plant

Carrots can be planted as soon as the frost leaves the ground. Assuming that you are using no-till methods of gardening, this can be quite early in the year. If you prefer to dig your garden in the spring, you will have to wait until it dries enough so that you can dig without compacting the soil. You can plant another round of carrots in May. Carrots can be grown in containers.

Sowing the Seed

Carrot seed is very small so that there is a tendency to plant too many but if you do you will regret it later since you will be spending a lot of time thinning.

Since it takes three weeks or so for the seedlings to come up, there is a danger that you will remove your young carrots as you weed. Some gardeners plant radishes among them so that they know where the carrots are. The radishes can be harvested before they crowd the carrots. After thinning, the carrots need about an inch (2 cm.) between them. They should be planted about ½ inch (1 cm.) deep. You need to keep the soil moist since there is nothing worse for them than drying out.

Varieties to Plant

If you have a few rocks, you might want to plant the stubby-shaped varieties, such as Nantes, which do not look the same as store bought, but taste as good (in fact better because you will be eating them fresh from your garden). Carrots come in many colours now besides the traditional orange.

Problems you Might Encounter

If you have a lot of wet weather, you may find your carrots split. This will not change the taste and is normal under these conditions.

Carrots can be attacked by leaf blight, sclerotinia rot, carrot weevils and rust flies. The best thing to do to avoid these is to keep rotating your crops to different places in your garden. If you are having problems with rust flies, Veseys sells a [resistant variety](#).

Storage

You can begin harvesting in the middle of the summer. Carrots can be left in the ground, right up until frost, or until you need them. They can effectively be stored through the winter in a cold cellar in damp sand. As soon as you pull them, remove the tops to prevent wilting.

Learn more about carrots [here](#)>