

Care and Feeding of Carrot Plants:

Keep carrots well weeded early in the season. They are easily overcrowded, with any competing weeds usually winning out.

While they may not show it, carrots need a good supply of water, in soil that drains well. They also respond well to fertilizer applied prior to sowing carrot seeds, and a couple of times during the season.

Do not over fertilize your carrots. Too much nitrogen in the soil, results in hairy (fine feeder roots), and misshapen carrots.



Tip:

Make sure to mark the rows well, as carrots take a long time to germinate. We suggest you plant a few radishes in the rows to "mark" them. After the carrots have germinated, the radishes can be harvested.

Days to Maturity:

Carrot roots are ready to pick approximately 65 to 75 days, depending upon variety.



Insects and Pests:

The most common problem is the maggot stage of the Carrot fly. This 1/4 inch white maggot eats along the outside of the carrot.





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Bunnies are well known to enjoy carrots. Experienced gardeners know that bunnies much prefer other crops like the leaves of beans and lettuce. Mice and moles will also nip at the tops of the carrot roots.

Disease:

There are some diseases, particularly viruses, that can occasionally infest your crop. To the home gardener this is usually infrequent, except in wet weather, or poorly drained soils.



Harvesting:

Begin to harvest carrots as "baby" size, thinning the row as you harvest. Once you begin picking, you can harvest as needed. After the plants have died off, the carrots do not need to be harvested right away. They can remain in the soil for weeks or more.



Hardiness:

Carrots are somewhat hardy. They will withstand cold weather and a light frost.

