



CARROTS

Carrots are a hardy cool-season crop that can be grown in the spring or fall in the midwest. Carrots come in a variety of flavors and colors and provides a great source of vitamin A. Bring together your next meal with a fresh carrot side dish.

VARIETIES

There are many varieties of carrots, all having different shapes, sizes and odors. Colonial Gardens recommends Mokum, Tendersweet, and Danvers Half Long.

PLANTING

Carrots should be planted in mid-to late April before the last frost. Carrots are difficult to transplant, they should be seeded directly into the garden.

Your soil should be well tilled or loosened to an 8-9 inch depth. Ammend with compost to increase organic matter.

For fall carrots the best time to plant is in late July to early August.

Plant seeds 1/4-1/2 inch deep in moist soil. Rows can be 8 inches apart with plants every 1-2 inches in a row.

Carrots germinate slowly. This allows weeds to get a jump start in the garden. Mark your rows clearly and cultivate lightly inbetween.

FERTILIZING

Carrots benefit from frequent watering until germination. Seeds have a difficult time breaking through the soil if there is a crust on the surface. Once they are up, decrease waterings so they recieve approximately 1" per week.

HARVESTING

Harvest carrots when they reach a mature sign for each variety.

Don't leave mature carrots in the ground too long because the root will eventually become woody and fibrous.

Most carrot varieties require 55-60 days from seeding to mature. After harvesting, cut the tops to within 1/2 inch of the root top.

Store in plastic bags in a refrigerated space.

