

Carrot

Daucus carota · Carrot family

DIFFICULTY Moderate
TYPE Biennial, grown as annual, direct sown
MATURITY 60–80 days



SUN
Full sun



WATER
Consistent



SOIL PH
6.0–6.8



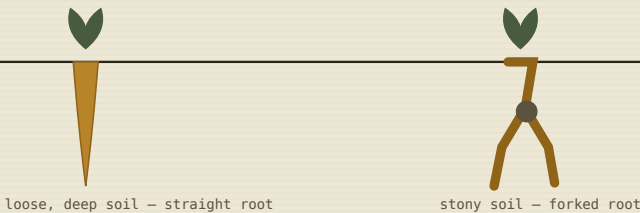
SPACING
5cm × 30cm



DEPTH
0.5–1cm

01 Soil depth matters

Carrots need loose, stone-free soil to at least 30cm. Compacted ground or a buried stone splits the taproot into forks — dig deep and sieve out debris before sowing.



02 Planting

METHOD	Direct sow thinly — carrots dislike being transplanted due to the taproot.
SOIL	Deep, loose, stone-free to 30cm. Stones and compaction cause forking.
TIMING	Sow spring through summer in cool zones; cooler months in the subtropics.

04 Problems

- **Carrot fly** — larvae tunnel roots; use fine mesh barriers.
- **Forking** — from stony, compacted soil, or fresh manure.
- **Splitting** — irregular watering, especially dry spells then heavy rain.
- **Cavity spot** — dark lesions from waterlogged, poorly drained soil.

03 Growing care

- Thin to 5cm apart once true leaves appear — crowding stunts roots.
- Keep the soil surface moist until germination, which is slow (10–20 days).
- Hill soil lightly over shoulders to stop tops turning green.
- Hand-weed while young; carrots compete poorly early on.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Shoulders visible at soil surface, ~2cm across; brush soil back to check size.
METHOD	Loosen soil with a fork before pulling to avoid snapping roots.
CURING	None needed; twist or cut tops off close to the crown.
STORAGE	Cool, humid, dark — fridge crisper or damp sand. Keeps 2–4 months.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY	AVOID NEARBY	ROTATION NOTE
Onion Leek Rosemary Lettuce	Dill	Rotate with legumes to loosen soil; avoid heavy, un-amended clay beds.