

Parsnip

Pastinaca sativa · Carrot family

DIFFICULTY Moderate
TYPE Biennial, grown as annual, direct sown
MATURITY 100–120 days



SUN
Full sun



WATER
Consistent



SOIL PH
6.0–6.8



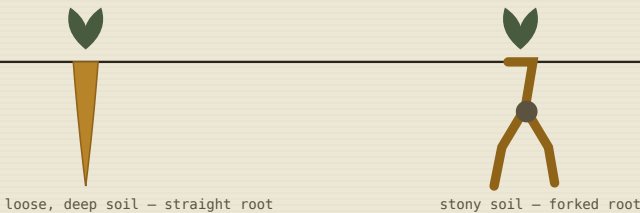
SPACING
10cm × 30cm



DEPTH
1–2cm

01 Soil depth matters

Like carrots, parsnips need deep, loose, stone-free soil for a long, straight root. Sweetness improves after the first light frost.



02 Planting

METHOD	Direct sow — seed loses viability fast, so use fresh seed each year.
SOIL	Deep, loose, stone-free to 30cm.
TIMING	Sow in early spring; slow to germinate (2–3 weeks).

04 Problems

- **Canker** — dark rot on the shoulder; improve drainage, avoid excess nitrogen.
- **Forking** — from stony or compacted soil.
- **Carrot fly** — same pest as carrots; use fine mesh.
- **Slow, patchy germination** — always sow fresh seed.

03 Growing care

- Thin to 10cm apart once seedlings are established.
- Keep soil consistently moist — dry spells cause woody roots.
- Mulch to suppress weeds around the slow-growing tops.
- Leave in the ground after frost — cold sweetens the flavour.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Roots reach 15–20cm, especially sweet after a frost.
METHOD	Fork gently from the side to avoid snapping the root.
CURING	None needed.
STORAGE	Can stay in the ground over winter, or fridge 2–4 weeks.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY	AVOID NEARBY	ROTATION NOTE
OnionGarlicPeas	Carrot (competes for same root depth)	Rotate with legumes; avoid following other root crops for 2 years.