

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



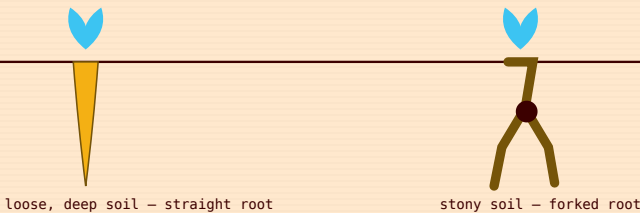
SPACING
5cm × 30cm



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.

Planting timing varies significantly by Australian climate zone. Set your zone above (or use the Find My Climate Zone tool) for guidance tailored to your own area.

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.
PRESERVING	See Root Cellaring (cool, dark storage without processing) for ways to keep a harvest surplus.
RECIPES	Try our Honey-Roasted Carrots — a way to use a glut.

06 Companions & rotation

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