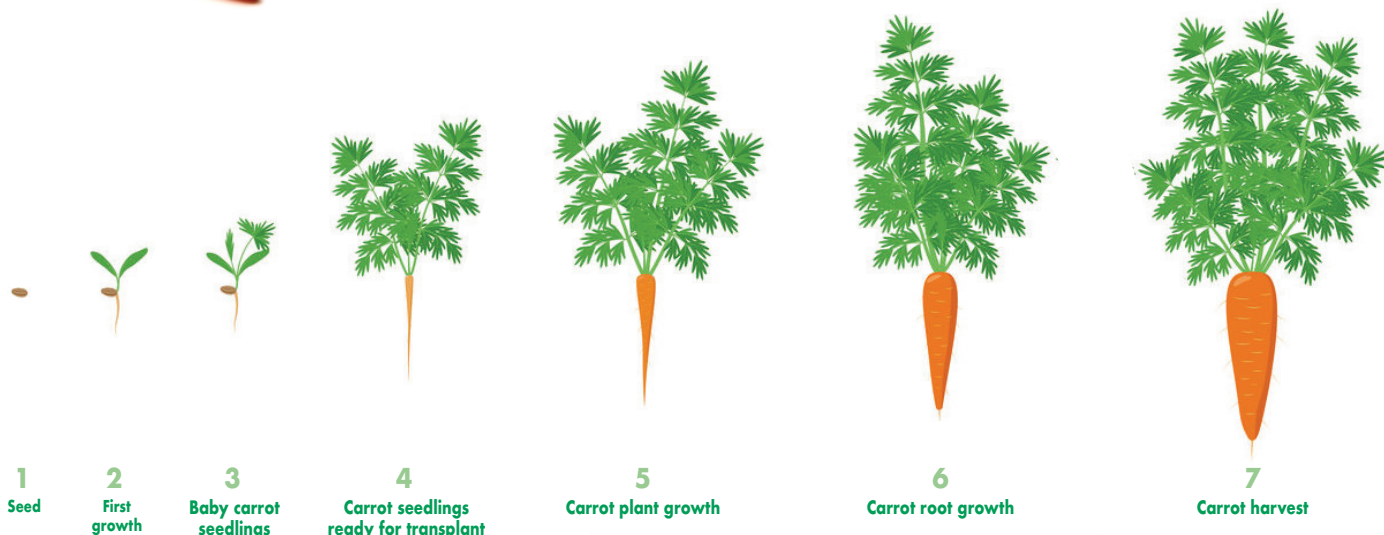


Growing Carrots



Carrots eaten hot or cold are one of the most versatile vegetables. They are packed full of beta carotene (vitamin A), essential vitamins K1 and B6 and minerals especially biotin and potassium. Carrots along with parsnip and celeriac are root vegetables that belong to the Apiaceae family. Depending on the variety, they will take from 60-80 days from seed to harvest. Carrots come in wide range of colours besides the well know orange, including purple, white and yellow.

LIFE CYCLE OF CARROTS



When to plant

Carrots can be grown in most parts of Australia in spring, summer and autumn, however, they don't like extreme heat or cold.

As companion plants, try alongside leeks, lettuce, onions, peas and beans.

Location

- Carrots prefer a warm spot in the garden, so pick a spot to suit.

Soil

Get the soil right to harvest a bumper crop.
Carrots must have free draining light soil.

Dig the soil down 30cm so that it's free of rocks, stones or clumping soil, so you'll have straight carrots.

Do not add any manure or compost to the soil as it can cause excess foliage, fine root hair and distorted growth. Carrots prefer an area that has had a previous land crop such as cabbages.

The PH of the soil should ideally be between 6.0 and 6.5.

1. Sowing seeds

- Sow seeds directly into the ground not seed trays as they don't like to be transplanted.
- Carrot seeds are very small so mix them with sand or seed tape to make sowing easier.
- Sow seeds in rows 15cm apart and 0.5 deep, cover lightly with soil.
- Carrots are also great in pots, use a container that is deep and wide enough to grow them.
- Water in well with **Seasol** to help increase seed germination rates.

2. First growth

- Seeds will take 7-21 days to germinate depending on the temperature. Watch as the tiny leaves come thru the soil.
- Thin the tiny seedlings to 5cm apart when they are about 5cm high to reduce overcrowding and the risk of crooked roots.
- Use scissors or tweezers when thinning to remove plants so you don't damage other plants.
- Water your tiny plants regularly every day and apply **Seasol** weekly, as they will help to stimulate strong root development and healthy growth.

3. Baby carrot seedlings

- Thin the carrots out again 2-3 weeks later to around 10-15cms so they are not competing for nutrients and space.
- Keep your young seedling moisture by checking the soil daily and water where needed.
- Apply **Seasol** weekly to stimulate strong root growth.
- Apply a liquid fertiliser that is low in nitrogen (less growth) and higher in phosphorus and potassium (root development) such as **PowerFeed PRO SERIES for Roses & Flowers**.



Note: Like carrots, roses & flowers like less nitrogen & more potassium.

Seasol

*Check application rates on product labels or go to the Seasol website.

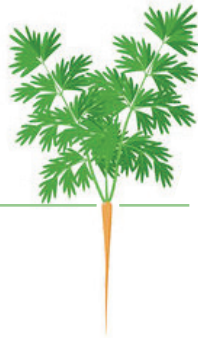
for more info:
Toll Free 1800 335 508
www.seasol.com.au

Growing Carrots



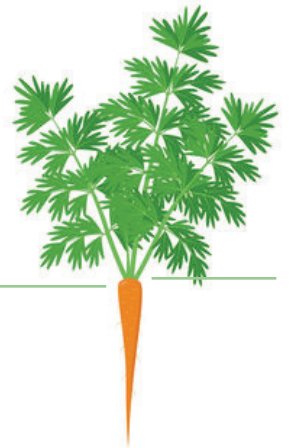
4. Carrot seedlings ready for transplant

- Transplant seedlings from the seedlings tray you have purchased.
- Plant them at the depth they were in the punnet, be very careful not to damage the root. As little handling as possible is the best choice of action.
- Water your newly transplanted seedlings in with **Seasol** to get them over transplant shock.



5. Carrot plant growth

- Watch your carrots grow over the following weeks, you can't see the root development, but you can see the healthy green growth above.
- Don't overfeed as they can bolt and go to seed – heaps of foliage and no root development.
- Check moisture leaves daily and water where needed.
- Apply **Seasol** (30mL of concentrate per 9 litres of water- standard watering can) weekly to promote strong root development.



6. Carrot root growth

- Cover carrot crowns with a layer of mulch such as sugar cane mulch or pea straw as they poke through the soil. This also stops the carrots from becoming green and bitter.
- Carrot feeder roots are easily damaged so carefully pull out weeds as they come through the soil.
- Check moisture levels daily and water where needed.
- Apply liquid **PowerFeed PRO SERIES for Roses & Flowers** a month later.



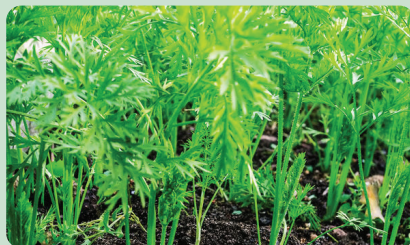
7. Carrot harvest

- Keep a close eye on your carrots and harvest when ready. Smaller, shorter carrots are juicer and have more flavour.
- Sometimes you can tell by the size of the crown the possible length of the carrot, other times you need to pull one or two out to see if they are ready,
- Once harvested, wash thoroughly to remove dirt and store in the fridge for use at a later date.



Things to watch out for...

- Carrots like spinach and coriander can bolt and go to seed before they produce the roots or the carrot. This can usually happen if the temperature is too cold or hot.
- Carrot flies like to lay their eggs in young seedlings. Their larvae eat the roots and tunnel their way up. Deter by using compost and planting companion plants listed overleaf.
- Aphids can be a problem, spray with the appropriate pest oil.



- Root rot in carrots is possible if the ground is too wet and not free draining. Add some sand when preparing the soil or build up raised garden beds.



Seasol

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