



## Mercy Wellness Seed Program Growing Guides

### Carrots:

**Start:** Sow thinly in rows 12" after danger of frost has passed. Cover with ½" of fine soil. Do not transplant as this will result in carrots that are crooked and forked. Thin to stand 1" apart when seedlings are 3" tall.

**Water:** Keep plants well-watered during dry periods to promote uninterrupted growth. Overwatering may cause carrots to fork or crack. Keep the soil moist but not saturated. Carrots need about 1" of rain per week.

**Soil:** Carrot beds need to be well-prepped before planting. Soil should be well worked, loose, and free of rocks. Heavier soils may need to be amended with peat moss. For longer varieties of carrots, soil will need to be worked and loosened deeper than for shorter varieties. pH 6.0-6.8

**Light:** Full sun.

**Fertilize:** Choose a fertilizer that has more potassium and phosphate than nitrogen and use half the recommended concentration as too much fertilizer may result in less flavorful carrots with forked or hairy roots.

**Harvest:** Carrots reach maturity after about 70 days though they can be harvested before or after this mark as they grown continuously. Soak the soil around the carrots just before harvest to make them easier to pull. Carrots can be left in the ground after frost in cold climates but should be harvested before the ground freezes. In warmer climates, carrots can be left in the ground and harvested all winter.

**Notes:** Carrots can be harvested mid-summer and a second crop planted for a fall harvest. Tops should be cut off close to the carrot if the carrots are to be stored.

