



trellis

How to grow Carrots in a Pot

Carrots are one of the most popular vegetables to grow and eat. From a healthy snack to wholesome soups, carrots are winners. Most commonly grown in the ground, they can be successfully grown in planters if ground is unavailable or inhospitable to carrots' long roots e.g. stony, heavy or shallow soil.

Container grown carrots (and other suitable vegetables such as beetroot, broad beans, dwarf French beans, herbs, peas, potatoes, radish, runner beans, spring onions, tomatoes) can be started off in a glasshouse or porch allowing us Northern dwellers to sow seed indoors in March.

Ensure the choice of container gives a minimum growing depth of 45cm x 45cm diameter and traditional varieties such as Nantes 2 should provide a satisfactory crop of tapered roots. The round rooted Paris Market 5 should grow in shallower pots on the patio, or even in a window box.



"Parisienne Carrots" by [Chiot's Run](#) is licensed under [CC BY-NC 2.0](#)

What you will need:

- **Seeds of choice**
- **Container for sowing seed and larger container for planting out**
- **Good quality compost—carrots need a finer tilth**
- **Label and pen**
- **Watering can**



The Ingredients



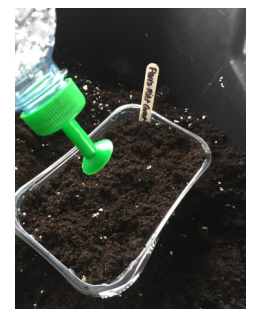
Step 1 Compost and seeds

Step 1 Fill a recycled plastic grape box, or similar 4/5th full with a fine seedling compost, (compost should look like fine breadcrumbs). Tamp the compost down to squeeze out excess air pockets, then water to moisten the compost fully.

Sprinkle the seeds evenly over the compost. Sieve or sprinkle a fine layer of compost over the seed layer.

Step 2 Water with a spray nozzle to avoid displacing the seed. Label and place in an indoors, bright spot and although carrots are not a thirsty crop, check watering daily to prevent excessive changes in moisture levels.

Seedlings should appear within 10-20 days.



Step 2 Water and label

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How to grow Carrots in a Pot *continued*



Sieve the compost

Adaptive Tip (no need to pot up)

If indoor space allows, carrot seeds can be sown directly into the container they will remain in until fully grown. Ensure the compost is as fine as possible (use a sieve or riddle if available).



Large box-- sow direct

TOP TIP Growing the seedlings in a transparent grape box allows the developing root to be viewed which can inspire interest for younger gardeners. Once the seedlings are large enough to handle, pot into their final home to fully develop in.



Step 3 Deep pot for growing on

Step 3 Potting up and growing on.

Tease the carrot seedlings gently from their nursery box. Use a dibber/pencil to create little planting holes approx. 5cm apart, in a deep pot to accommodate the lengthening roots.

The carrots will develop, but because they are closer together than those sown in open ground, some unusual, however tasty shapes may result!

Maturing carrot roots prefer free-draining conditions—err on the drier side when watering.



Spot the carrot root taking 'shape'



Step 4 Protect against carrot root fly

Step 4 Carrots can be susceptible to carrot root fly. Some carrot varieties are bred for their resistance to the blighters.

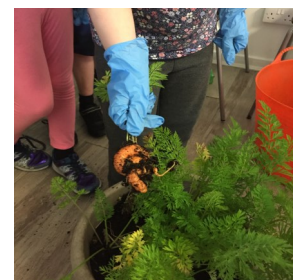
The following might help prevent an infestation

- Cover with a fine mesh/fleece
- Grow beside onions, garlic and chives as their smell can disguise the carrot
- Avoid growing close to parsnips and celery

Step 5

Carrots can be harvested about 12-16 weeks after sowing. The younger they are picked, the more flavoursome they are.

Nothing tastes better than a carrot pulled, then washed down with the garden hose, and eaten in situ!



Step 5 Enjoy!