Harvest seeds by cutting stems several inches below the seed heads. Move harvested seed heads to a well-ventilated area that is protected from rain. Allow to dry for 5-14 more days. Carrot seeds can be threshed by rubbing the seed heads between hands or against the inside of a bucket. Use a screen to clean seed and winnow to remove chaff. Store carrot seeds in an airtight container where it is cool and dark. Carrot seeds can remain viable for up to 6 years.
HOW TO GROW

Plant carrot seeds in the garden when the soil is above 45°F. Seeds can also be planted in deep containers. Carrot seeds germinate in 7-21 days.

As the shoulders of the carrots emerge from the soil, mound a little mulch or dirt around the exposed root to prevent greening.

HOW TO HARVEST

Pull carrot roots up by their tops. Be gentle - some deep-rooted varieties may require careful digging to prevent carrots from snapping when harvesting. Cut off carrot greens to prevent moisture loss before storing.

Storing  Fresh carrots last 4-5 months when stored in a humid location below 40°F. Store up to 7-9 months by increasing humidity and lowering the temperature to 35°F.

HOW TO EAT

Carrots are eaten raw in salads, sautéed with onions and garlic for sauces, or they can be added to soups and stews. Carrots are also roasted with other root vegetables. Carrot seed can be used as a spice.

HOW TO SAVE SEED RATING: CHALLENGING

Carrots are biennials and will bloom and set seed during their second season of growth.

In the fall of the year they are planted, dig 15-20 carrots from dry soil, before the first hard frost. Do not wash. Trim carrot tops – cut just above the crown, being careful not to cut the top of the carrot.

Store carrots in wood shavings, clean sand, or dry leaves, inside of tubs or buckets. Throw away diseased or insect-infested roots before storage and again before replanting. Carrots must be stored below 50°F for at least 10 weeks to ensure flower production in their second season.

In the spring, remove carrots from storage and replant each carrot root with the crown just above the soil line, 12 inches apart. Tall flower stalks will need staking.

Carrot flowers are insect pollinated. Cross-pollination is possible so grow only one variety to seed and only in an area free of wild carrots like Queen Anne’s Lace.

As seeds mature, they turn from green to tannish brown.