

Problem Diagnosis for Carrot

UC Davis, Vegetable Research and Information Center

<http://vric.ucdavis.edu/pdf/carrot.pdf>

What the Problem Looks Like	Probable Cause	Comments
Carrots twist around one another	Plants are too close together	Thin carrots to 1 - 2 inches apart when plants are small.
Carrots rot or have enlarged white "eyes"	Overwatering	Water less often. Do not plant carrots in heavy soil.
White growth on leaves	Powdery mildew	Use fungicide if extensive. Sulfur may help
Thin, spindly growth	Weed competition	Control weeds
Rotted roots. White fungus growth on soil surface and clinging to root. Small, oval honey-colored to brown sclerotia in fungal growth	Southern blight or white mold. Caused by <i>Sclerotium rolfsii</i>	Avoid planting in infested soil. Nitrogen fertilizers may help.
Roots with surface tunnels filled with rusty mush. Stiff, white maggots may be visible, but no above ground symptoms.	Carrot rust fly. A small fly that lays its eggs in crowns of carrots.	Peel off damaged area before using. Harvest carrots as soon as possible. Control weed hosts. Do not store carrots in ground through winter.
Roots hairy, forked, misshaped	Root knot nematode Overwatering , Carrot roots in contact with fertilizer pellets or fresh manure Hard soil or rocks Overcrowding	Rotate. Soil solarization. Remove rocks. Thin carrots early.
Carrots fail to emerge	Soil crusting High soil temperatures Seedling pests	Maintain uniform soil moisture until seedlings emerge. Protect soil surface from rain or sprinklers. Do not plant too deeply.
Yellowed, curled leaves Stunted plants	Leafhoppers	Use insecticidal soap.
Brown spots on leaves or roots	Leaf blight	Avoid planting in infested soil. Nitrogen fertilizer may help
Tiny holes on leaves	Flea beetles	Control weeds. Use rotenone with insecticidal soap.
Inner leaves yellowed; outer leaves reddish purple roots stunted and bitter	Aster yellows (mycoplasma disease)	Remove affected plants. Control weeds. Control leafhoppers with insecticide.
Green root tops	Roots exposed to sunlight	Cover exposed roots with soil or mulch.