

# GROW YOUR OWN

## WITH

### EMMERDALE

### CARROTS



Use a recycled container with at least 30cm depth, such as a washing basket lined with a compost bag and holes in the side for drainage or a bucket with holes drilled in the bottom. If available, add gravel or broken pots (taking care with sharp edges) for extra drainage.



Add peat free compost mixed with horticultural sand (60/40) as carrots like free draining soil. Water the compost before sowing the seed so the seed makes good contact with the compost and also to prevent the seed from washing away when watering.



Carrots are typically grown in drills/rows but due to the shape of the container, we are creating 2 circular shallow drills (1-2 cm deep) by using a finger or plant label to make the groove.



Select a variety that has short-medium roots such as "Flyaway" which grows 13-15cm long and is a maincrop resistant to carrot fly. Follow the instructions on the packet of the particular seed that you have selected and ensure that they are appropriate for the growing conditions.



As the seeds can be very small, you can mix the seeds with a little bit of sand to make it easier to sow them. Sprinkle the seeds lightly and then cover with some fresh compost. Remember to wash your hands thoroughly afterwards as compost and seed coating should not be ingested.



Water well. Place in a sunny spot and keep the soil moist but not water-logged, carrots don't need as much water as some other crops and over-watering can lead to more leaf than carrot.



As the seedlings grow to about an inch in height, thin (remove the weaker seedlings) so that the seedlings are growing about 3 inches apart. If you happen to have horticultural fleece handy, you could always cover the container to help prevent carrot fly but if your container is above 45cm in height, then you should be ok as they can't fly that high!

Depending on the variety, the carrots should be ready to harvest in 12-16 weeks, even earlier if you select an Early cropping variety.