

BABY CARROT “Little Finger” Variety PLANTING GUIDE

This variety was developed in France

Did you know store bought baby carrots are just cut up large carrots? These are actually small when mature.

HOW TO PLANT:

1. **Remove any weeds from the bed** (trowels & gloves in Garden Box-see map).
2. **Discuss where your two vegetables will be planted with respect to sunlight.** Tall plants can create afternoon shade. How can we plant so that both veggie types receive good sun? Divide your plot in half. Plant the tall veggies on the north side of your plot if possible. Carrot tops will be <12”.
3. **Row spacing.** Most plots will accommodate 2-3 rows of carrots. [Space rows 6” apart](#). Consider where your rows will be relative to the drip irrigation lines, which should be arranged to provide even watering.
4. **Seed depth.** Use a trowel (optional) to make a shallow trench ([1/4” deep](#)). Trowels in storage box next to gate. ¼” is really very shallow so be careful not to plant too deeply.
5. **Seed spacing.** Packet instructions suggest [2 seeds every 1”](#). **HOWEVER**, since the seeds are so small, I suggest [mixing the seeds with some soil using the provided plastic cups](#). [Stir with popsicle stick](#). [Have kids take turns pouring seed/soil mixture along the defined row](#).
6. **Mark your both ends of your row.** Place a craft stick at EACH end of your rows. Sticks tell us where we need to pay attention (i.e. watch for seedlings and where NOT to step).
7. **Water the beds (if desired) using watering can or hose (see garden map).** The drip irrigation system will provide water on a regular basis so it is not necessary. Show kids where the holes are in the irrigation lines.
8. **Clean and return any used trowels and gloves to the Garden Box.** Please keep gloves together in pairs as found.

MONITORING:

1. **Appearance of seedlings.** Seedlings should appear in [10-25 days](#).
2. **Thin seedlings** (once 1” tall) to [1 every 2”](#)
3. **Keep soil watered.** Water deeply to encourage deep roots (about 1” per week)
4. **Observe your plants regularly.**
5. **Insects.** Look for insects that might munch on the leaves!

HARVEST:

- [~ 57 days \(Little Finger Baby Carrots\)](#) post-planting to harvest
- Teachers and Garden Liaisons should remain in contact with each other for periodic updates and eventually the HARVEST!

According to Botanical Interests seed company. For best flavor and texture, harvest Little Finger carrots at their optimal size of 3" long. Peak harvest period lasts about 3 weeks. Late summer sown carrots are sweetened after having been kissed by light frost, but please harvest before soil freezes, which would destroy

the crop. If you live in a climate that doesn't fall below 20°F, you can leave carrots in the ground for storage provided they are heavily mulched, and harvest as needed.

https://www.botanicalinterests.com/product/carrot-baby-little-finger-organic-heirloom-seeds/srch:little_finger