Carrot Facts

Fun Facts / Jokes

- What was the carrot’s favorite type of martial arts? Carrot-tee, of course!
- Carrot World Records
- The top carrot-producing nations are: 1. China, 2. Russia, and 3. United States.
- About 2,598,400,000 pounds of fresh U.S. carrots are harvested every year.
  [Link to http://www.agmrc.org/commodities_products/vegetables/carrot-profile/]
- The city of Holtville, California claims to be the Carrot Capital of the World!
  [Link to http://www.holtvillechamber.org/pages/Home]
- The longest carrot ever recorded was 19 ft 1.96 in. in 2007.
  [Link to http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/world-records/longest-carrot/]
- Why are carrots orange? Carrots are orange because they absorb certain wavelengths of light more efficiently than others. Beta-carotene is the main pigment and is mainly absorbed in the 400-500nm region of the visible spectrum with a peak absorption at about 450nm. Carotenoids are one of the most important groups of natural pigments. They cause the yellow/orange colors of many fruit and vegetables.
- The name Carota for the garden Carrot is found first in the Roman writings of Athenaeus in 200 A.D., and in a book on cookery by Apicius Czclius in 230 A.D.
  [Link to http://www.herballegacy.com/Hook_History.html]
- Black Swallowtail butterflies (Papilio polyxenes) are particularly attracted to carrot plants.
- There is a carrot variety for every letter of the alphabet. [Link to http://carrotmuseum.co.uk/atoz.html]
- The first carrot cakes are thought to be created from a German carrot-nut bread recipe.
  [Link to http://www.carrotmuseum.co.uk/trivia5.html]

Botanical Facts:

- Classification
  - Family: Apiaceae (Umbelliferae for umbrella-like shape flowers)
    - aromatic plants with hollow stems
    - Relatives: celery, carrot, parsley, cilantro, cumin, dill, fennel, parsnip
  - Genus: Daucus
  - Species: Daucus Carota (wild carrot) - Queen Anne’s Lace
  - Subspecies: Sativus (cultivated carrot)

- Root Vegetables
  - Purpose
    - Storage Organs - enlarged to store energy in the form of carbohydrates (balanced between sugars, starches, other carbohydrates)
  - True Roots
    - Tuberous Roots - ginger, sweet potato
    - Taproots - rutabaga, turnip, carrot, dandelion, parsnip, radish
  - Non-Roots

For more information & other resources, visit [www.georgiaorganics.org/for-schools/rooting-for-carrots](http://www.georgiaorganics.org/for-schools/rooting-for-carrots)
• Tubers - yams, potato, artichoke,
• Rhizomes - turmeric, ginseng
• Corms
• Bulbs - garlic, onion, shallot

• Plant Parts
  o Stem
    • Hollow
    • Grows to about 1 meter tall
  o Flower
    • Embel of white flowers
  o Roots
    • Taproot

• Life Cycle and Reproduction - Biennial (flower every two years)
  o Year One - produces edible root and leafy top
  o Year Two - flowers and seeds are produced
    • Seed Size: Tiny - a teaspoon can hold almost 2,000!
    • Seed Travel: Bird-nest-shaped fruit cluster that when dry (and suitable for seed dispersal) bends outward, exposing the fruits to wind and animals; when wet bends inward, forming the bird's nest structure which protects the seeds

• Companion Plants
  o Carrots benefit from onions, leeks, and chives that repel the carrot root fly
  o Carrots, when left to flower, attract predatory wasps that kill many garden pests

Historical Facts:
• First eaten in ancient Greek and Roman times
• Ancient Egyptians placed purple carrots in the tombs of Pharaohs, and the drawings of the carrot harvest can be found in numerous hieroglyph paintings.
• Eaten throughout the European and Southwest Asian continents
• First domesticated in Afghanistan
• 1565 - Carrots in the New World (Margarita Island off west coast of Venezuela)
• 1600 - Orange carrots first grown in the Netherlands to represent Dutch royalty (symbolized by the color orange). Prior to that they were purple, white, yellow, red, or black!
• 1609 - Carrots grown by colonists at Jamestown, Virginia to cure illnesses and disease
• 1629 - Carrots grown in Massachusetts

More: http://www.carrotmuseum.co.uk/history.html

Health Facts:
• Carrots gets their orange color from beta-carotene, a powerful antioxidant. http://umm.edu/health/medical/altmed/supplement/betacarotene
• Carrots are rich with Vitamin A, which supports good vision and eye health. http://www.fruitsandveggiesmorematters.org/carrots
When carrots were introduced in North America by Virginia colonists, they were used as medicine to cure illnesses and disease.

Georgia-specific Facts:
- Georgia carrots are supposedly sweeter because climatic conditions help Georgia carrots develop more sugar during the growing process. [http://agr.georgia.gov/georgia-grown-carrots.aspx](http://agr.georgia.gov/georgia-grown-carrots.aspx)
- Georgia carrots are grown in the southern portion of the state, most commonly in Pierce, Wayne, Brantley, Coffee and Jeff Davis Counties.
- Carrot acreage in Georgia has grown to 2,600 acres statewide. [http://savannahnow.com/stories/041399/LOCvidaliacarrots.html#.VYhNAKZv0nI](http://savannahnow.com/stories/041399/LOCvidaliacarrots.html#.VYhNAKZv0nI)