



## How to plant and grow your Danvers Carrots

- Make 1/8 to 1/4-inch-deep holes two inches apart – check your seed packet for the recommended planting depth of your chosen cultivar. Drop two to three seeds in each hole, cover lightly with soil, and spray with water. Keep the soil moist until the seeds germinate. Set your container in a sunny location or under a grow light. This root veggie needs moist soil that isn't waterlogged. Water deeply, pouring slowly over the plants, and let it soak all the way into the soil.

Once you replant outside, make sure you have an ample depth container. Danvers carrots are ideal for 10-inch-deep containers, 'Danvers' grows 7-8 inches long. This is an excellent choice for those who prefer long, slender carrots over short, stubby ones.

Transplant the carrot seedlings when they have reached 1 to 2 inches in height and it is at least 50 degrees outside. Before you transplant them outside, set the seed tray outdoors for a few hours daily for a week to harden them off, or acclimate them to the outdoors.

These roots have one clear, easy way of saying they're ready for pulling: they show off their pretty orange shoulders. If the tops aren't pushing out of the soil after the number of days when your seed packets indicate they should be ready, scrape your finger around the base of the leaf stem. If you see a plump-looking carrot just below the surface, that means they're ready.

Shoulders will be about a half inch to an inch and a half in circumference, depending on the type.



## Sunflowers Anyone? Growing your Mammoth Russian Sunflowers

It's a very low maintenance plant, perfect for beginner gardeners. Fill individual peat pots with a potting soil mix.



Sow two seeds per peat pot. Sow in the center of the pot and cover with 1/2 inch of potting soil for dwarf varieties and 1 inch for giant varieties.

Water the soil until it is evenly moist throughout. Cover in plastic wrap and place in a warm, sunny window to germinate, which takes approximately 14 days. Remove the plastic once seeds germinate. Continue watering to keep the soil moist but not soggy. If both seeds germinate, remove the weaker seedling once the stronger seedling has produced its second set of leaves.

Transplant outdoors once all danger of frost has passed 1-2 weeks after last frost date. Harden off the seedlings by setting them outdoors for 2 to 4 hours a day for 7 days before transplanting.

Cut off the bottom of the starter pot with a sharp knife. Plant each sunflower, pot included, so the top of the pot rim is just under the soil surface. Space giant sunflowers 3 feet apart and dwarf varieties 1 foot apart. Sunflowers require well-drained soil in full sun. Water weekly, at least to 1 inch depth. Pull weeds as needed.

When seedlings reach 4 inches in height, thin plants to 16 inches apart to allow room to grow.