

HARVEST OF THE MONTH

CARROT

NOVEMBER

Carrots are root vegetables like potatoes, turnips and beets. The roots of these vegetables are edible.



STORAGE

- Store carrots ideally at 32 °F with a relative humidity of 90-95% and some air circulation. Under these conditions, carrots will be acceptable for about 4 weeks.
- Carrots stored at general refrigeration temperatures below 41 °F in sealed bags have approximate shelf life of 10 days.
- Carrots may be stored in dry storage below 75 °F for up to 4 days.
- Remove green tops to carrots prior to storage to increase shelf life because the tops will use water and drain nutritional value from the carrot.
- Cut off carrot greens, place carrots in a container with a lid and cover completely with water.
- Keep the container in the refrigerator, changing the water every four to five days.
- Store carrots away from ethylene-producing fruits and vegetables, because ethylene causes a bitter flavor in carrots.



+ BENEFITS

Carrots are rich in vitamin A, vitamin C, vitamin K, potassium and dietary fiber. They also are a good source of antioxidants. The health benefits of carrots are many, including helping to reduce cholesterol, preventing heart disease, protecting against development of certain cancers, improving vision, and reducing the signs of premature aging.

Talking to Students about Potassium

Potassium is a mineral that has many functions, including maintaining heart health.

✓ SELECTION

- Choose carrots with a good, smooth form and a hearty orange color.
- Select carrots that still have greens attached, as these tend to keep better and taste fresher. The leaves themselves should be fresh and bright green.
- Note the carrot's shape: Try to choose medium-sized carrots that taper off at the end. Medium-sized carrots will be the easiest to cook. Thick carrots are often tough and harder to cook with.
- Select young carrots for the most sweetness. Slim, early carrots are the sweetest.

🧺 PREPARATION

- Wash carrot roots and gently scrub them with a vegetable brush right before eating.
- To remove additional debris, gently scrape the skin using a knife.
- If the stem end is green, it should be cut away as it will be bitter.
- Depending upon the recipe or your personal preference, carrots can be left whole or julienned, grated, shredded or sliced into sticks or rounds.
- While heating can often damage some of the delicate phytonutrients in vegetables, the beta-carotene as found in carrots has been shown to be surprisingly heat-stable.

🍴 TASTING TIP

Let children choose which new foods to try.



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