



SAKATA® Orange Diamond*

TB REF : ORANGE DIAMOND*:
05/06/2024

PASSION in Seed

F1 Hybrid – Nantes Carrot



OUTSTANDING QUALITIES

- ◆ MEDIUM MATURITY WITH HIGH YIELD POTENTIAL
- ◆ EXCELLENT ROOT UNIFORMITY WITH A ROUNDED TIP
- ◆ VIGOROUS FOLIAGE WITH A STRONG LEAF ATTACHMENT
- ◆ WIDELY ADAPTED TO GROWING CONDITIONS

Orange Diamond* is a medium maturing, hybrid Nantes-type carrot. It produces cylindrical roots that are slightly tapered with well-rounded tips at maturity. The roots are an appealing, uniform orange, showcasing excellent quality and consistency in size and shape. The vigorous foliage of **Orange Diamond*** has a strong attachment, making it well-suited for top lifting during harvest. **Orange Diamond*** demonstrates good field holding ability. This variety is perfect for both the bunched and pre-packing markets.

SPECIAL VARIETAL REQUIREMENTS

- Suitable for summer and autumn sowing, but it is recommended trialling in specific areas to determine adaptability.
- Contact area representative for a sowing guide.

CHARACTERISTIC*	ORANGE DIAMOND*
KIND	F1 hybrid carrot (<i>Daucus carota</i> L.)
TYPE	Nantes
SOWING SEASON	All year round (trial in specific areas to determine adaptability)
MATURITY	Relative maturity 105 – 120 days from sowing
ROOT DIMENSIONS	<u>Length:</u> 20 – 25 cm <u>Diameter at the top (shoulder)</u> 2.0 – 3.5 cm Note: Root size is influenced by the plant population
ROOT SHAPE AND TIP	Cylindrical with a rounded to semi-blunt/slightly tapered tip (Cyliandroconical shape)
ROOT UNIFORMITY (SHAPE AND SIZE)	Very good
EXTERNAL ROOT COLOUR	Deep orange
INTERNAL ROOT COLOUR	Deep orange
ROOT CORE COLOUR AND SIZE	Deep orange and medium-sized
ROOT SKIN SMOOTHNESS	Average
ROOT TASTE/BRUX (SUGAR CONTENT)	Juicy mild flavour
TOP/FOLIAGE HEALTH AND HABIT	Vigorous growth habit with erect foliage
TOP/FOLIAGE HEIGHT	High/tall, 30 – 35 cm
TOP/FOLIAGE COLOUR	Dark green
LEAF ATTACHMENT	Strong, suitable for hand and top lifting
BOLTING REACTION	Slow
DISEASE RESISTANCE (SCIENTIFIC)	-
FIELD HOLDING ABILITY	Good
YIELD POTENTIAL	High
SUGGESTED SOWING DENSITY	Density depends on the season, size requirement of the roots and the target market/uses of the final product, however, we suggest: <u>Pre-pack carrots:</u> 900 000 – 1 300 000 seeds per hectare <u>Processing/larger sized carrots:</u> 600 000 – 900 000 seeds per hectare
MARKET USES	Bunched, pre-pack, fresh market
SPECIAL FEATURES, BENEFITS AND REMARKS	Medium maturity with good field holding ability. Very uniform roots with good external and internal quality attributes.

* Characteristics given are affected by production methods such as soil type, nutrition, planting population, planting date and climatic conditions. Please read disclaimer.

Disclaimer: This information is based on our observations and/or information from other sources. As crop performance depends on the interaction between the genetic potential of the seed, its physiological characteristics, and the environment, including management, we give no warranty express or implied, for the performance of crops relative to the information given nor do we accept any liability for any loss, direct or consequential, that may arise from whatsoever cause. Please read the Sakata Seed Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd Conditions of Sale before ordering seed.
Resistance: is the ability of a plant variety to restrict the growth and development of a specified pest or pathogen and/or the damage they cause when compared to susceptible plant varieties under similar environmental conditions and pest or pathogen pressure. Resistant varieties may exhibit some disease symptoms or damage under heavy pest or pathogen pressure (HR = High resistance, IR = Intermediate resistance).

* **Experimental:** This variety does not appear on the current South African Variety list, but has been submitted for registration.

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GENERAL TIPS FOR CARROT PRODUCTION

Soil preparation

Being a root crop, soil conditions and proper soil preparations are essential to the success, quality, and yield of the crop. Although deep, well-drained, sandy soils are favoured, carrots are commonly produced on heavier soils. It is essential that soil preparation include the removal of any large rocks/objects and deep ripping of the soil to break down any potential sub-surface compaction layers that may restrict root growth (lengthening and tuberization).

Soil should be worked into a fine, smooth tilth to produce a fine seedbed, this will ensure proper contact between the seed and the soil which will favour rapid and uniform germination. Carrots are usually sowed on raised beds; this will ensure proper water drainage (restrict waterlogging) and enhance aeration allowing the roots to breathe which will facilitate the root to grow straight and long – production on flat beds are not recommended. The soil of raised beds should be porous, free of rocks and deep, at least 25cm on sandy soil and 35cm on heavier, clayey soils – especially in higher rainfall regions. Straight beds across the field are very important as this will ensure, precise sowing, effective crop management and more efficient harvesting.

Sowing depth

Depends on the seed size, seed treatment/coating, soil (type and structure), climate and irrigation capacity at the time of establishment. In well-drained, non-sealed, sandy soil a sowing depth of 7 to 13 mm is ideal for treated or non-treated seed. Whereas, for heavier, clayey soil the sowing depth limit ranges from 7 to 10 mm. The sowing depth of pelleted seeds should be increased to 12 or 15 mm to ensure proper disintegration of the coating – 15 mm deep should be considered as the maximum sowing depth. Proper irrigation management after sowing ensures uniform germination of the seeds.

Irrigation

Proper irrigation management is crucial and can have a profound effect on the development, quality, and yield of the carrot roots. Over-irrigation can lead to short, stumpy carrots. This can also occur in poorly drained or heavy/clayey soils as well as during high rainfall periods. To assist under these conditions, lighter soils should be used along with deeper beds around 30 – 35 cm.

During the germination phase, irrigation management (high frequency and low volume) is critical to increase uniform germination and reduce sealed crust formation. During the root lengthening phase, growers often limit irrigation (reduce the quantity of water being applied to the crop) to force the root to grow longer i.e. help establish a longer carrot. As water is applied on a low frequency, medium volume basis during this phase, the carrot root lengthens as it searches for deep soil water. Caution should be taken not to limit water to such an extent that the plants start to wilt – this is especially crucial to manage on sandy soils as these soils drain very quickly.

For the last six to eight weeks of production (tuberization of root phase), ensure regular supply (medium frequency and high volume) of water and do not allow the crop to stress. This will help keep the roots turgid and ensure the development of bigger sized roots.

High volumes of water applied to the crop shortly before harvesting can lead to an increase in the frequency of in-field splitting and cracking during the harvesting process.

Fertilisation

Carrots require specific fertilization to ensure healthy plants, high quality roots and high yields. Firstly, strong foliar growth and development are required to establish the crop, followed by the production, translocation, and storage of sugars in the root. Therefore, it is important to provide ample nitrogen-based fertilisers early in the growth stages to stimulate the production of strong, healthy tops (vegetative development) on the plants. Sugar production (sweet taste in carrots) can be stimulated after leaf/foilage development by increasing the amount of potassium. Potassium also improves the strength/mechanical resistance of roots (less broken and cracked carrots) and increase the carotene content – deeper orange colour. Calcium, magnesium, and boron contribute to the health of the foliage and quality of the roots.

It is important to supply nitrogen throughout the growing season as this will ensure high yields and maintain healthy foliage. However, excess applications of nitrogen at any stage will stimulate; excessive foliage development, favours the development of Sclerotinia and Pythiums, make roots more sensitive to splitting and breakage/cracking during harvest, poor root colouration (decline in carotene production) and can adversely affect the production of sugars in the roots i.e. less tasty/sweet carrots.

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