



Using, Storing and Preserving Carrots



Michigan-grown carrots are available late July to late October.

Prepared by:
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Recommended varieties

Baby, Chantenay, Danvers, Imperator, Nantes, Novelty, Round and Small



Storage and food safety

- Wash hands before and after handling fresh produce.
- Using a vegetable brush and running water, remove all soil from carrots. Peel if desired.
- Store carrots with the green tops trimmed.
- Carrots will keep for several weeks in crisper of refrigerator at 41 °F or lower in perforated plastic bags.
- Keep carrots away from raw meat and meat juices to prevent cross-contamination.
- For best quality and nutritive value, preserve only what your family can consume in 12 months.

Yield

5-7 medium, = 12-14 small	2 ½ cups shredded or sliced
24-36 baby = 1 pound	2 ½ cups cooked
50 pounds = w/o tops	17 to 25 quarts

How to preserve

Canning

Pressure canning is the only safe method for canning carrots.

Select small carrots, preferably 1 to 1 ¼ inches in diameter. Larger carrots are often too tough. Wash, peel and rewash carrots. Slice or dice.

- **Hot pack method:** Cover with boiling water, bring to boil and simmer for 5 minutes. Fill jars, leaving 1 inch of headspace. Add 1/2 teaspoon salt to pints and 1 teaspoon to quarts, if desired. Fill jars to 1 inch from top with boiling water. Remove air bubbles. Wipe jar rims. Adjust two-piece lid, tighten, and process.
- **Raw pack method:** Fill jars tightly with raw carrots, leaving 1 inch headspace. Add 1 teaspoon of salt per quart, if desired. Add hot cooking liquid or water, leaving 1 inch headspace. Adjust two-piece lids, tighten, and process.

Lawn or garden questions?

Visit migarden.msu.edu.
Call toll-free 1-888-678-3464.

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Recommended process time for carrots in a dial-gauge pressure canner.

Style of pack	Jar size	Process time	0-2,000 ft	2,001-4,000 ft	4,001-6,000 ft	6,001-8,000 ft
Hot and raw	Pints	25 min.	11 lb.	12 lb.	13 lb.	14 lb.
	Quarts	30 min.	11 lb.	12 lb.	13 lb.	14 lb.

Recommended process time for carrots in a weighted-gauge pressure canner.

Style of pack	Jar size	Process time	0-1,000 ft	Above 1,000 ft
Hot and raw	Pints	25 min.	10 lb.	15 lb.
	Quarts	30 min.	10 lb.	15 lb.

Freezing

Select young, tender, coreless, medium-length carrots. Remove tops, wash and peel. Leave small carrots whole. Cut others into thin slices, 1/4-inch cubes or lengthwise strips.

Water blanch small whole carrots for 5 minutes, diced or sliced for 2 minutes and lengthwise strips for 2 minutes.

Cool promptly, drain and package, leaving 1/2 inch headspace. Seal and freeze.

Water blanching: Use 1 gallon of water per pound of prepared vegetables. Put vegetables in blanching basket or colander and lower into boiling water. Place lid on blancher. Return water to boil and start counting blanching time as soon as water returns to a boil.

For recipes, see:

Complete Guide to Home Canning. (Rev. ed.). 2009. Agriculture Information Bulletin No. 539. U.S. Department of Agriculture. Available at http://nchfp.uga.edu/publications/publications_usda.html.

Andress, Elizabeth and Juda A. Harrison. *So Easy to Preserve.* Bulletin 989, 6th Edition. Cooperative Extension University of Georgia, 2014.

References

National Center for Home Food Preservation, CSREES-USDA. <http://nchfp.uga.edu>.

University of Nebraska Extension Buy Fresh, Buy Local. http://lancaster.unl.edu/FOOD/Buy_Fresh_Buy_Local_Summer_1.pdf.

Find out more about Michigan Fresh at msue.anr.msu.edu/program/info/mi_fresh.