

Carrot

Disorders

Carrot Splitting

Splitting or cracking of carrot is a major problem in many carrot growing areas. Additions of excess nitrogen can result in splitting of carrots especially if rain or heavy irrigation occurs shortly after application.

Control: Nitrogen applications should be kept to a minimum during the early growing period. Heavy applications in the early part of the season can predispose carrots to more severe cold injury in cases of low temperatures.

Cavity Spot

Cavity spot is characterized by elliptical to irregularly shaped, depressed lesions oriented across the mature carrot tap roots. Infections occur anywhere along the taproot, but lesions tend to be more abundant on the upper third of the root. Lesions begin as pinpoint, sunken spots and generally enlarge as roots mature.

Control: As the older carrots are more susceptible to infection carrots should be harvested as soon as after they mature. Providing excess irrigation to the crop should be avoided.

Bitterness

Pre-harvest stress (improper irrigation scheduling) or exposure to ethylene from ripening rooms or mixing with commodities such as apples may cause bitterness.