

PARSNIPS

Varieties

Gladiator, Arrow, Javelin, Albion.

See your seed dealer for the most recent variety recommendations.

Seeding And Spacing

Sow seed as early in the spring as possible at a rate of 3.25 to 5.5 kg/ha (1.3 to 2.2 kg/acre), to a depth of 6 to 19 mm. Space plants within the row 5 to 10 cm apart and space rows at least 45 cm apart.

Soil

Deep, loose fertile soils that have good water-holding capacity and a pH of 6.0 or above are necessary for the development of long, straight roots. Well-drained sandy loams, peat and mucks are ideal for parsnip production.

Fertilizer

A soil test is necessary to determine phosphate and potash requirements. See Chapter 3 for recommendations based on soil test results. Broadcast and disc at time of planting 60 kg/ha (24 kg/acre) nitrogen and the required phosphate and potash.

Side-dress with 35 kg/ha (14 kg/acre) of nitrogen about 6 weeks after seeding.

Weed Control

See Table 7.39. See also the fold-out chart inside the back cover.

Insect Control

Carrot Rust Fly (*Carrot Maggot*)

This small, shiny, black fly with yellowish legs and yellow-brown head, lays eggs in soil near plants. Yellowish-white, legless maggots feed on roots of carrots, parsnips and celery, leaving rust-coloured tunnels. Young plants may be killed. Older plants may be stunted and the roots deformed.

Monitoring

See “Monitoring”, (Carrots section).

Control

The suggested spray schedule in Table 7.40 need only be followed if the field is not monitored for carrot rust flies. Monitoring can eliminate or substantially reduce the number of sprays per season. When sprays are required, they can be applied exactly when needed.

“Drench” means to spray the insecticide in at least 1000 L/ha (400 L/acre) of water on the soil 10 cm on each side of the plants in the row.