PARSNIP

Parsnip is a hardy cool-season crop that is grown for its white, carrotlike root. Roots are most flavorful when dug late in the season, as sugars accumulate in the root.

Varieties

Hollow Crown, Model, and All American are common varieties.

When to plant

Sow seed in early to mid-April as beets or carrots are planted. Using fresh seed is important.

Spacing

Plant seeds ½ inch deep with 2-4 inches between plants. Rows may be 15 inches apart. Seed may be slow to germinate, so, be patient for the crop to emerge. Avoid heavy watering that would create a crust and interfere with good germination, or sprinkle some peat moss or sand over the row to prevent crusting.

Care

Parsnips need care similar to that for beets or carrots. Prevent weed competition, and water during stressful periods. Allow the crop to stand until late fall to early winter before digging.

Harvesting

Dig the roots in late November to early December before the ground starts to freeze.
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