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*Daucus carota* var. *sativus*

[Synonyms : *Daucus sativus*]

**CARROT** is a biennial. Developed in Europe it has small, white flowers.

It is also known as *Carota* (Italian), *Carotte* (French), Cultivated carrot, *Gajar* (Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Punjabi), *Jazar* (Arabic), *Kam sun* (Chinese), *Möhre* (German), *Morot* (Swedish), *Porkkana* (Finnish), *Shikha-mulam* (Sanskrit), *Zanahoria* (Spanish), and *Zar-dak* (Persian); and in flower language is said to be a symbol of fecundity (when wrapped in garden parsley).

*Carota* for some authorities is derived from old Greek *karoton* (wild carrot) and for others it means 'red-rooted'. *Sativus* means 'cultivated'.

German horticulturists developed the root crop in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century from wild carrot (*Daucus carota*) and both are used medicinally.

It is only in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century that people in the West have begun to eat carrot (root) raw, as well as boiled, stewed or added to savoury dishes.

The root's yellow colouring matter has been used to dye butter and cheese.

Oil extracted from carrots can be an ingredient in toiletry preparations. The yellow oil is said to be able to enhance dry hair and soothe chapped skin.