

FIELDS AND FLOWERS

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Howdy,

We are Lexi & Jeanette, your local
Agriculture & Horticulture Extension Agents.



What's new in Agriculture...

All brands expired on August 31, 2021 - Renew by February 28, 2022.

The first Private Applicator's Training will be on March 10, 2022 in the Ector County AgriLife Classroom. Please contact either office for more information. We will be having a multi-county Native Grazing Grasses and Drought Management seminar in April. More details to come. Auxin Training will be on March 16, 2022 at 8am at the Midland County AgriLife Extension Office. This training is needed in order to buy Dicamba or 2-4, D. For more information, call (432) 686-4700.

Horticulture question of the week

Carrots can be planted mid-January here in West Texas, they will be ready for harvest between 62 to 75 days. Carrots are a great source of vitamin A, and they can be consumed raw or cooked.

When planting carrots it is important to plant them in loose sandy loam soils that are well drained.

It is important to prepare the planting site, removing rocks, trash and large pieces of plant material. Spade the soil 8 to 12 inches deep.

Place the carrot rows 1 to 2 feet apart.

Varieties that perform well in our area include; Danver's 126, Danvers Half Long, Nantes Half Long, Red Cored Chantenay, Royal Chantenay and Touchon.

We will be having an AG PAC meeting on March 29, 2022 at 8 am in the Midland County AgriLife Extension Office. This meeting is meant to get the Ag producer's opinions and ideas for upcoming programs. If this is something you'd be interested in, please come to this meeting.

When it comes to making a cotton crop, selecting the right planting variety is the most important decision a cotton farmer will make all year. Over the years, Bt technologies have been fairly effective in controlling worms in cotton. The second generation Bt was more effective than the first one, and the third generation technology is more effective than the second generation due to the addition of toxins. But as might be expected, newer protective traits usually come with additional costs. So if a producer doesn't need these added protective traits, Bt varieties with older trait packages are still competitive in terms of yield and quality.



Before planting carrots, scatter on the soil 1 cup of a complete fertilizer such as 10-10-10 for each 10 feet of row to be planted. Use a rake to mix the fertilizer into the soil to a depth of 3 to 4 inches. Using a hoe handle or stick, make one or two rows $\frac{1}{2}$ inch deep on top of each prepared ridge. Scatter 18 to 20 seeds per foot in the row. Because carrot seeds require 14 to 21 days to sprout, many gardeners mix a few radish seeds, which sprout quickly, with carrot seeds to mark the row. Cover the seeds lightly (Fig. 3). Carrots grow best in cool temperatures of early spring and late fall. Night temperatures of 55 degrees F and day temperatures of 75 degrees F are ideal for carrots. High temperatures cause poorly colored, low-quality carrots. Carrots should be ready for harvest 70 to 80 days after planting. Pull them from the soil when the roots are 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter. To avoid breaking the carrot while pulling, loosen the soil around the carrot with a spade. Wash the carrots and store them in the bottom of the refrigerator. Carrots will keep several weeks if you place them in a plastic bag to increase humidity and store them at a temperature near 32 degrees F.

