



WELCOME TO KINGS ONLINE PLANT DOCTOR

CARROT RUST FLY

Chamaepsila rosae

Carrot rust fly is a common pest that affects not only carrots, but parsnips, celery and parsley as well.

The adult flies are black and glossy, around 5-8mm long, with a thin body, shiny wings and yellow legs. They lay their eggs close to the roots of the host plant in spring. Once hatched, the larvae make their way down into the soil to eat the roots, which causes damage to the crop.

Damaged plants show a dark, 'rusty' discolouration around the areas which have been eaten. Other symptoms include stunted growth, forking or bulbous growths. If younger plants are affected, they may wilt or the crop may fail. In many cases, damaged plants become inedible.

PREVENTION

Rotate all root vegetable crops annually to help prevent repeated crop infection.

Keep the area free of weeds and use [bug netting](#) to keep adult flies away from crops. Companion planting can also be effective, so plant onions nearby to help deter adult flies.

Feed and water plants well, as pest insects are more attracted to weakened or stressed plants.

TREATMENT

There is currently no chemical or organic treatment for this pest.



CARROT RUST FLY PRODUCT RECOMMENDATIONS

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