

Horticulture

Research Protocols

Carrots in Deep Trench with Chopped Leaves

Objective: Determine if deep trench carrot yield is higher when grown in chopped leaves topped with soil, vs. soil only.

Farmer-cooperator will:

- Follow Research Protocols for study
- Take photos throughout the project
- Keep in contact with PFI with updates and questions
- Turn in all data by October 2017

Practical Farmers of Iowa will:

- Help set up research protocol.
- Monitor progress of project and provide support when needed.
- Publish results in a PFI research report, on PFI website, and potentially other outlets.
- Provide \$550 cooperator payment at conclusion of project year.

RESEARCH PROTOCOL

In-field practices:

Each farmer can decide their own in growing practices, but should record what was done and when. Practices separate from the treatment should be consistent in all plots. **Some planting information is requested in the excel document.**

Field Layout:

- Four replications is preferred, three is ok.

Example Plot Layout

	10 ft
Rep 1	Leaf Mulch
	Soil
Rep 2	Soil
	Leaf Mulch
Rep 3	Leaf Mulch
	Soil

Carrots will be planted in a deep trench, double-dug style bed. Leaf mulch trenches will 18 in. deep, with a top layer of 2 in. of soil. Control (soil only) plots will roto-tilled prior to seeding. All beds will be flame weeded just prior to seeding.

Harvest and Data Collection:

- When harvesting, record marketable weight and count of the plot; count cull carrots. **An Excel spreadsheet for data collections is attached.**

CARROTS IN LEAF MULCH TRIAL SETUP DATA	
Seeding date:	
Spacing after thinning:	
Between row spacing (inches):	
Plot Area (ft ²):	20

LEAF MULCH FOR CARROTS TRIAL HARVEST DATA						
Harvest Date	Rep	Treatment (Leaf or Soil)	Plot Marketable Weight (lb)	Plot Marketable Count	Cull Count	notes

Contact: Liz Kolbe, Horticulture Coordinator
 (515) 232-5661
 liz@practicalfarmers.org