



Agriculture & Horticulture
DEVELOPMENT BOARD



New Project

FV 398

Carrots: Over-winter carrot storage - a review of future opportunities

Project Number: FV 398

Title: Carrots: Over-winter carrot storage - a review of future opportunities

Start and end dates: 1st April 2011 to 30th June 2011

Project Leader: Dr Tim Lacey, Vegetable Consultancy Services (Developments) Ltd.

Industry Representative: Ian Hall, Tompsett Burgess Growers Ltd.

Location: Vegetable Consultancy Services (Developments) Ltd.

HDC Cost: £5,800

Project Summary:

Current UK industry practice is to field-store carrots in-situ under polyethene and straw for winter/spring marketing. However, this practice is under increasing threat from rising straw, plastic and land-rent prices and it also poses agronomic issues for long-term sustainable production. Despite these threats, there are no currently proven alternative winter storage solutions that satisfy the requirements of the UK market (providing produce with suitable skin finish and taste, with low levels of disease at an economically viable cost).

Therefore, this project aims to identify and review both currently established and novel strategies or technologies for providing a reliable supply of quality carrots during the winter/spring/early summer. Each option will be briefly evaluated for its suitability to the UK industry (compared to the current practice) including estimated costs. This evaluation will allow those techniques or strategies with the greatest potential to be identified for future targeted research through the HDC.

Aims & Objectives:

(i) Project aim(s):

This project aims to review currently available and novel strategies for ensuring reliable supplies of quality carrots through the current field-storage period, ultimately helping to identify specific areas for targeted research.

(ii) Project objective(s):

- Identify from international literature and industry experts all potential strategies and technologies for off-season carrot supply, including both established and novel approaches.
- Briefly evaluate the potential of each option within the UK industry, including estimated costings
- Identify techniques or strategies which may have the greatest potential for future targeted research.
- Present findings to the carrot industry (specifically BCGA R&D committee)

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