



## Problems

**Weeds:** Radishes do not compete well with weeds. Weed control is particularly important during germination and early establishment when plant growth is slow. Avoid deep cultivation around the plants as root pruning and damage will affect growth and yield.

**Insects and Diseases:** Most radishes grow rapidly and are not susceptible to many production problems. Rotate the planting location in the garden from year to year to help control many diseases.

Insect	Identification	Control
Root Maggots	Small white maggots that burrow into the root and bulb. Lowers yield and quality	Use soil insecticides.
Flea Beetles	Small black beetles that feed on seedlings. Adults chew tiny holes in cotyledons and leaves. Feeding injury reduces plant stands or may kill seedlings.	Control with chemicals at seeding or after seedlings have emerged from the soil. Use floating row covers to exclude pests.
Disease	Symptom	Control
Root Rots	Fungal diseases that cause decay and rotting of the root. May affect plant stands.	Use crop rotation, improve soil drainage, and apply seed treatment to provide effective control.

## Harvesting and Storage

Radishes can be harvested when the roots reach full size. Generally roots are mature 25-45 days from seeding depending on variety. Pull up plants by the tops and trim off leaves. Wash and store in plastic bags in a refrigerator for 2-4 weeks. Radishes should be harvested before heavy frosts or freezes.

## Productivity

Plant 3-5 feet of row per person for fresh use. Expect about 50 bunches of radishes per 50 linear feet of planted row.

## Nutrition

The popular red radish is low in calories with an abundance of flavor and crunch. A 1/2 cup serving of radishes (about 12 medium) provides plenty of potassium, vitamin C, folate and fiber. Winter radishes such as daikons are similar in nutrients.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q. What causes radishes to crack and split?** Old radishes will generally split, so harvest them when they are younger. A heavy application of water after a dry period will also cause mature roots to split.

**Q. Why do my radishes grow all tops but no roots?** There are several reasons for this problem. First, when planted too thickly and not thinned properly, plants fail to grow sizeable roots. Second, when temperatures are too hot (planted too late or unseasonable weather in spring) bulbing may be suppressed. Finally, if grown in too much shade, roots will not fill out completely.

**Q. What causes my radishes to be so “hot”?** The “hotness” of radishes results from the length of time they have grown. Radishes that grow too slowly, are heat stressed, or are very old are often “hot.”

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This publication is issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work. Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Jack M. Payne, Vice President and Director, Cooperative Extension Service, Utah State University.