

A PROMISING CARROT (DAUCUS CAROTA L.) CULTIVAR WITH
POTENTIAL FOR SEED PRODUCTION UNDER TROPICAL CONDITIONS

L.G. Herat
Agricultural Research Station, Rahangala.

The total extent of carrot (Daucus carota L.) cultivated in Sri Lanka is about 1500 hectares which is mainly confined to the up-country areas. The cultivars that are grown do not flower under local environmental conditions and hence about 10,000 kg of seed are imported annually.

An introduction from Indonesia called Early Renita was observed to flower and set seed under the local environmental conditions but had poor tuber quality. A selection programme was carried out during the past seasons to improve this aspect. The improved Early Renita selection was tested at Rahangala during Maha 86/87 season and gave a yield of 40.3 t/ha of marketable tubers which was significantly higher than the yields of the standard cultivars, Top Weight and Cape Market. Further in field experiments conducted at Sita-Eliya, Boragas, Rahangala, Bogahakumbura and Bindunuwewa during Yala '87 Early Renita selection gave a mean yield of 17.0 t/ha compared to 7.3 t/ha obtained from the cultivar Top Weight.

A seed yield estimate of 504 kg/ha was recorded from a 60 m² field plot cultivated at Rahangala. The seed collected from primary and secondary umbels were observed to give higher tuber yields than that from tertiary umbels.

B-38 : 10th Dec. 1987 (Thursday) 09.45 a.m. - 10.00 a.m.

B-39 : 10th Dec. 1987 (Thursday) 01.00 p.m. - 01. 15 p.m.