



CROP ROTATION

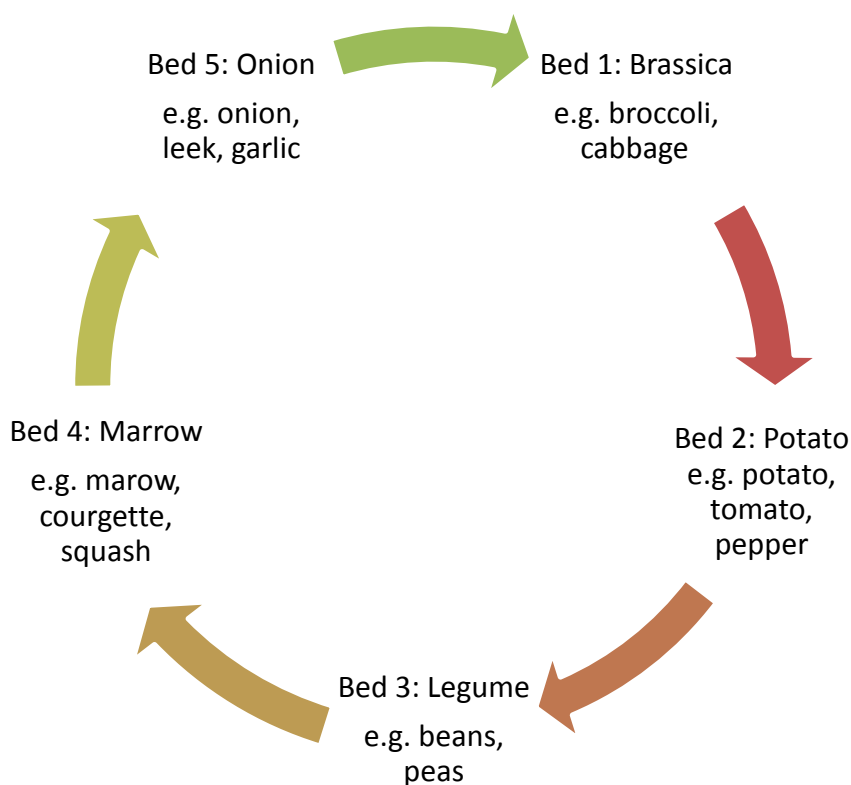
Rotating annual crops can contribute to improving and maintaining soil health and can prevent pests and diseases. Plants have particular needs and will use a certain amount and type of nutrients from the soil. If the same annual plants are grown in an area year on year, this will lead to nutrients being depleted, resulting in lower soil fertility.

Many gardening books will have a suggested crop rotation plan but it is more useful to create your own – your plan will depend on the different plants you want to grow and the number of different areas you have.

As a guide:

1. List the plants you want to grow and group them into families.
2. Use a plan of your garden to mark what you will grow in each area.
3. Use new plans for the next 3-5 years and mark the rotated plants.
4. Keep copies of your plans to remind you what has been planted.
5. Plants usually return to their original area after 3-5 years, though you could have a longer rotation plan if you have enough growing areas.
6. If you have the space, keep one area free from food plants and plant a green manure, to give the soil a rest and to be replenished.

Example of a 5-year crop rotation plan:





Plant families

Here are some common garden food plants, grouped by family. If you want to grow something as part of a rotation that isn't listed here, have a look in a gardening book or on the internet to find out which family it belongs to.

Beetroot family Chenopodiaceae	Cabbage family Brassicaceae (Cruciferae)	Carrot family Apiaceae (Umbelliferae)	Daisy family Asteraceae (Compositae)	Marrow family Cucurbitaceae	Onion family Alliaceae	Pea and Bean family Fabaceae sub-family Papilionaceae (Leguminosae)	Potato family Solanaceae	Other
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beetroot • Good King Henry • Quinoa • Spinach • Swiss Chard • Spinach Beet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broccoli • Brussel Sprouts • Cabbage • Calabrese • Cauliflower • Kale • Kohlrabi • Mustard • Oriental Brassicas • Radish • Swede • Turnip 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carrot • Celeriac • Celery • Fennel • Parsley • Parsnip 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chicory/Endive • Jerusalem Artichoke • Lettuce • Salsify • Scorzonera 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cucumber • Courgette • Marrow • Melon • Pumpkin • Squash 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garlic • Leek • Onion • Shallot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alfalfa • Broad Bean • French Bean • Runner Bean • Clover • Fenugreek • Lupin • Pea • Tares • Trefoil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aubergine • Pepper • Potato • Tomato 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corn • Lambs Lettuce • Miners Lettuce • New Zealand Spinach • Purslane • Phacelia • Grazing Rye • Buckwheat

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