



Crop Rotation

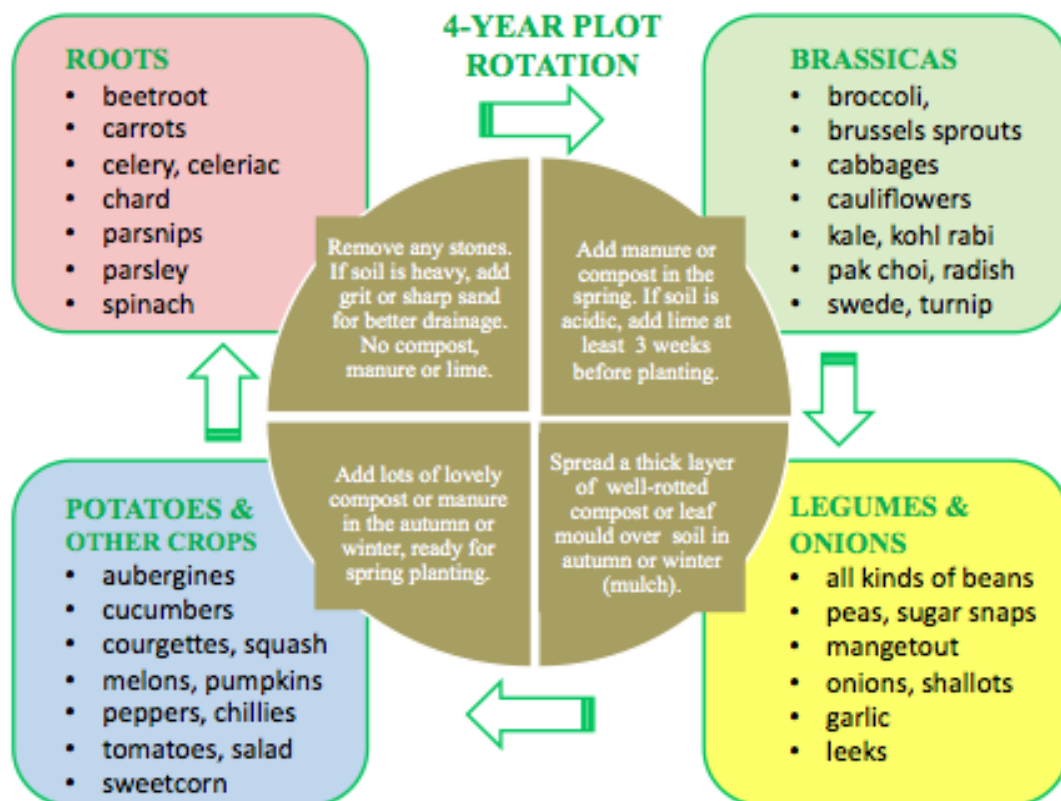
With the exception of one or two perennials that occupy a permanent position in an allotment plot – like globe artichoke, asparagus or rhubarb – vegetables are sown and planted afresh each year. It is smart to grow them in different places/beds from one year to the next. That way, you will prevent your soil from becoming exhausted by the same crop continually taking the same nutrients out of it. You will also reduce the risk of pests and diseases establishing and becoming difficult to eradicate. The idea is to group together crops belonging to the same family or sharing the same needs and planting each group in different places/beds each year.

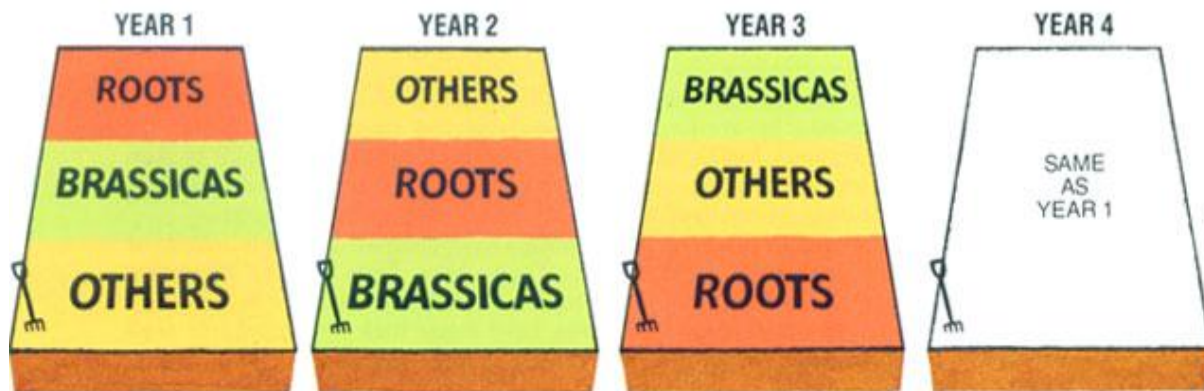
Vegetables are commonly grouped into these groups:

- Brassicas: Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, kale, kohlrabi, oriental greens, radish, swede and turnips. Brassicas are all particularly nitrogen-hungry, so should follow legumes in the rotation, in other words grow them in the section in which peas and beans were grown last year.
- Legumes: Peas, broad beans (French and runner beans suffer from fewer soil problems and can be grown wherever convenient). Legumes absorb nitrogen from the air and store or 'fixes' them in small nodules on their roots. If you leave these roots in the soil after harvest, the following year's crops will benefit from the nitrogen left behind.

- Onions: Onion, garlic, shallot, leek.
- Potato family: Potato, tomato, (pepper and aubergine suffer from fewer problems and can be grown anywhere in the rotation)
- Roots: Beetroot, carrot, celeriac, celery, Florence fennel, parsley, parsnip and all other root crops, except swedes and turnips, which are brassicas

Following are examples of 3-year and 4-year crop rotations:





ROOTS
 beetroot • carrot • chicory
 jerusalem artichoke • parsnip
 potato • salsify • scorzonera

Do not add manure.

Do not lime.

Star need Rake in a general-purpose fertilizer about 2 weeks before sowing or planting.

BRASSICAS
 broccoli • brussels sprout
 cabbage • cauliflower • kale
 kohlrabi • radish
 swede • turnip

Add some well-rotted manure or compost at digging time if soil is known to be short of humus.

Star need Lime the soil unless you are sure it is already alkaline.

Star need Rake in a general-purpose fertilizer about 2 weeks before sowing or planting.

OTHERS
 aubergine • bean • capsicum
 celeriac • celery • cucumber
 endive • leaf beet • leek
 lettuce • marrow • onion • pea
 spinach • sweet corn • tomato

Star need Add a liberal amount of well-rotted manure or compost at digging time.

Lime only if the soil is known to be acid.

Rake in a general-purpose fertilizer about 2 weeks before sowing or planting.