

Rotation also applies to home gardens

As farmers do it, so should we!

We often think that crop rotation is only for big plots of land, but it benefits our gardens as well. Erosion will be lessened, nutrients will not be depleted and you will be able to limit the amount of pesticides in use.

For example, tomatoes are prone to one set of diseases and take up specific nutrients from the soil. Cucumbers have a different set of diseases, and they take up nutrients in different amounts. Rotating your veggies helps to balance your garden system.

Consider making raised beds to create a physical barrier between your different garden areas. Plant your solanaceous crops (tomatoes, peppers, etc.) in one, cucurbits (cucumbers, melon, etc.) in another, and brassicas (cabbage, broccoli, etc.) in another, and then rotate planting order in the years to come.

An ideal rotation is every 3 or 4 years, so if you make 3 to 4 raised beds, you can complete a full rotation of plant families.

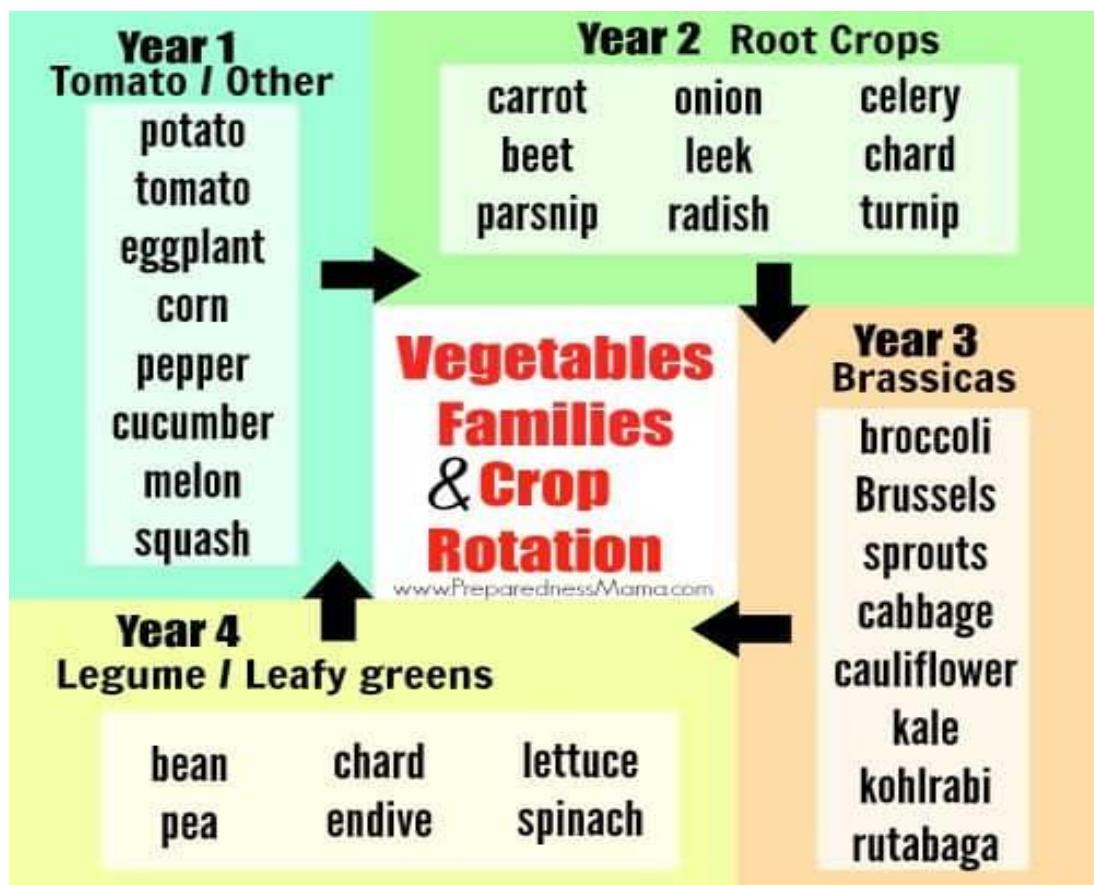
[Here is a full list of plant families.](#)



By using four beds, crops can be rotated each year to avoid insects and disease buildup.

Use pots for disease-prone plants

If you have a variety you love to grow (such as heirloom tomatoes), but you're concerned about significant diseases, consider planting them in a separate pot to keep diseases outside of your main planting area.



For more information:

<https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/summer-care-of-the-home-vegetable-garden.html>

<https://extension.psu.edu/plant-rotation-in-the-garden-based-on-plant-families>

<https://extension.umn.edu/yard-and-garden-news/rotate-crops-your-small-garden>