

## **WHY USE CROP ROTATION**

A homeowner or anyone planting small vegetable gardens should be aware of the advantage of applying crop rotation within their garden beds. It has been proven that the proper management of moving plants out of last year's area and replanting in a different area and as far away from its original site can help to prevent diseases as well as helping to get rid of various types of insects and pests.

Since different plants also use different nutrients, rotation is a big help in maintaining better soil nutrients. The rotation plan is sometimes more difficult when you only have room for a small garden. However, rotation can and should take place by simply moving a plant to a different location and as far away from its initial site as possible. Also, do not plant vegetables belonging to the same family time after time in the same place but, rather, rotate them. Go to [VEGETABLE PLANT FAMILIES](#) on the internet and learn which plants should not be planted in the same areas as last year's plants.

To get started, make a map of your garden bed(s) using the vegetable guidelines for each plant's required planting area. Then, for next year's planting schedule, move your plants to a different area within your mapped out plans. This then prepares your layout for next year's planting program.

Another reminder for gardeners - soil samples should be taken in the garden as they are needed to make sure you have the proper soil for maintaining a good crop yield and healthy plants. Visit our MG Web Site for [SOIL TEST INSTRUCTIONS](#).

JH