



# Crop rotation

**C**rop rotation is a simple way to help your crops avoid soil-borne diseases. It works on the principle that closely related groups of crops often suffer from the same diseases and that if they are grown in the same patch of soil year after year, these problems build up and reduce yields.

The first thing to do is to make a list of the crops you intend to grow and then to split them into groups according to the guide below. Grow these crops together on one section of your vegetable garden this year and move them to another the

next. The longer it takes one group of crops to rotate back to its original plot, the better, but for most of us with limited space, a three or four-year rotation is all we are likely to be able to manage.

If you intend to use green manures to enrich and protect your soil, these should be included in your groupings (see below).

If your vegetable patch is divided up into raised beds, this makes it easier to plan and stick to a rotation since each bed can be designated a vegetable group.

## The main groups are:

Cabbage family	Pea family	Onion family	Carrot family	Potato family	Others**
Cabbage	Peas	Onions	Carrots	Potatoes	Sweetcorn
Brussels sprouts	All beans	Shallots	Parsnips	Tomatoes	Lettuce
Kale	Field beans	Garlic	Celery	Peppers	Salad leaves
Cauliflowers	(green manure)	Leeks	Celeriac	Aubergines	Beetroot
Swedes	Lucerne/clovers				*Grazing rye
Turnips	(green manure)				*Buckwheat
Radish	Winter tares				*Phacelia
Mustard (green manure)	(green manure)				(*green manures)

### \*\*Other crops

These can be put with any of the groups above to use the space available, but should also be rotated where possible.

## Typical 4-year rotation

Year 1	Year 2	year 3	Year 4
Cabbage Brussels sprouts Kale Cauliflowers Swedes Turnips Radish	Peas All beans	Carrots Parsnips Celery Celeriac Potatoes Tomatoes Peppers Aubergines	Onions Shallots Garlic Leeks
Add manure/compost in spring before planting		Apply manure/compost in spring before planting	Lime in autumn if necessary