

CROP ROTATION

What is crop rotation

Crop rotation is a practice that involves changing the location of crops each year, to improve soil health and reduce pest and disease problems.

Benefits of a cover crop in your garden

- Disease organisms can build up over time, rotating your crops keeps these organisms in check.
- Crop rotation also helps reduce insect infestations, especially pests that live in the soil
- Different plant families require different nutrients and you keep your soil from being depleted of the same nutrients continuously.
- Some plants improve the soil and by rotating them through the garden you can produce free soil conditioning.

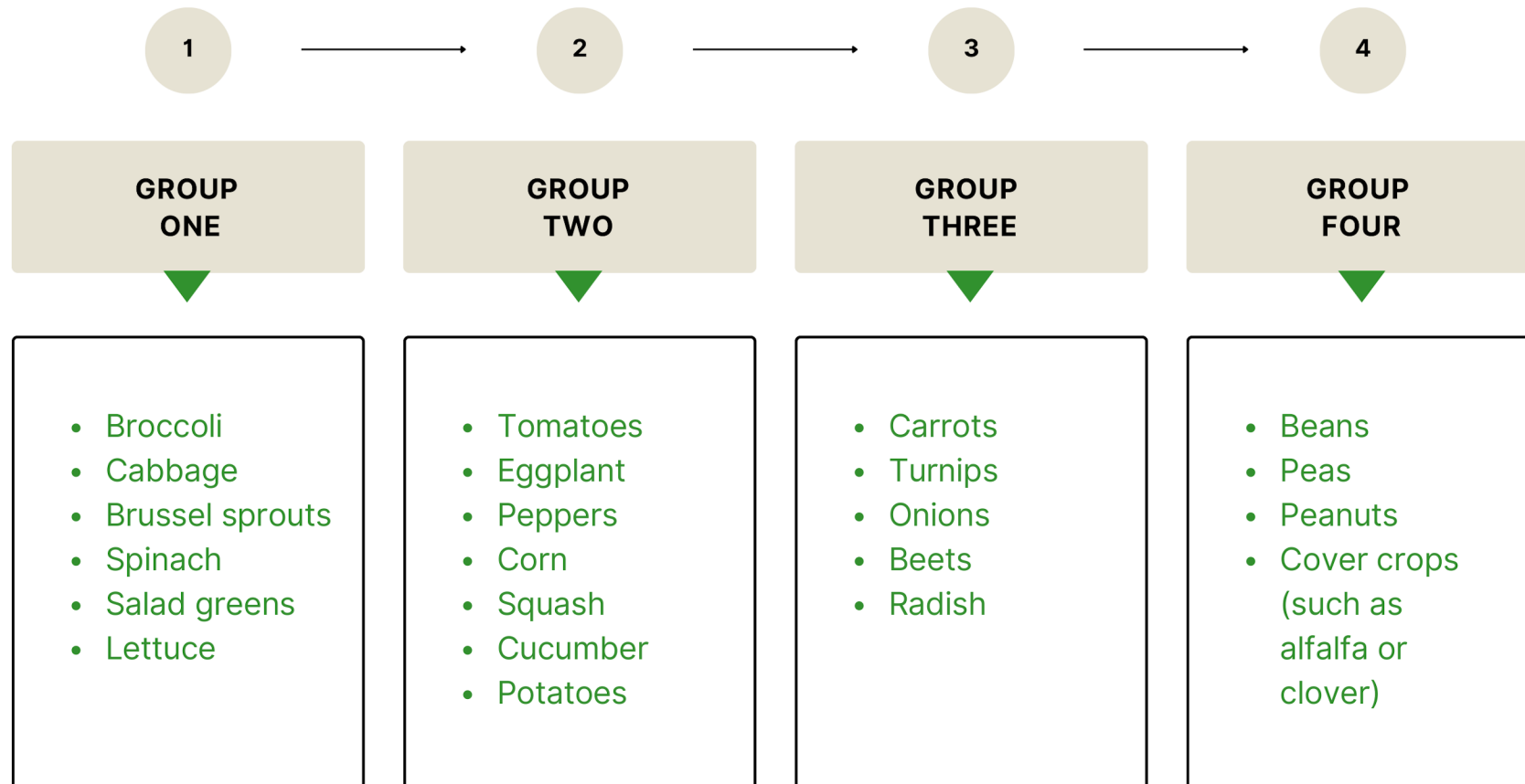
Principles of crop rotation

Crop rotation simply means dividing your garden into several sections and planting a different plant family every year. Records play an important part in crop rotation so that you know where to plant your crops the next year.

What are plant families?

Plant families are groups of related plants that share common characteristics. They often share a common ancestor and are used to classify plants into different groups.

To make it easy here is a simple plan with easy descriptions to get you started.



AREA 1

AREA 2

AREA 3

AREA 4

YEAR 1



Leaves



Fruits



Roots



Legumes

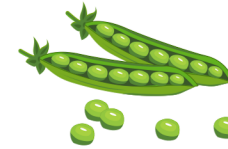
YEAR 2



Fruits



Roots



Legumes



Leaves

YEAR 3



Roots



Legumes



Leaves



Fruits

YEAR 4



Legumes



Leaves



Fruits



Roots

TIPS

- Legumes are called “nitrogen fixing” plants. They absorb nitrogen from the air, then release it into the soil.
- Since legumes add nitrogen to the soil, they’re followed by nitrogen-loving leafy crops, which decrease the need for fertiliser.
- You can use crop rotation in a garden of any size, the four areas can just be sections of planting beds.
- Potatoes and tomatoes are related, and they’re susceptible to the same diseases – that’s why they’re grouped together. This is where plant families play a role in your planning.
- Root crops break up the soil, so they’re followed by legumes that like the loose soil texture.

