Crop rotation

To help control pests and diseases it is a good idea to grow families of vegetables in separate plots and move them around (rotate) them each year.

1. Divide your crops up into groups in terms of:

**Legumes and Onion**
- All kind of beans
- Peas
- Sugar snaps
- Mangetout
- Shallots
- Onion
- Garlic
- Leeks

**Roots**
- Beetroots
- Carrots
- Celery
- chard
- Parsnips
- parsley,
- Spinach
- Sweet potatoes

**Brassicas**
- Broccolis
- Brussel sprouts
- Cabbages
- Cauliflower
- Kale
- Kohl rabi
- Radish
- Pack choi
- Sweed
- Turnip

**Potatoes and other Crops**
- Aubergines
- Cucumbers
- Courgettes
- Squash
- Melons
- Pumpkin
- Pepper
- Chillies
- Tomatoes
- Salad
- and sweet corn
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2. Designate a plot for each family of crops. Till the soil in your growing site before transplanting each crop into their corresponding plots.

Soil needs for different crops: **Roots**: Remove any stones, weeds, if soil is heavy add grit or sharp sand for better drainage. No compost, manure or lime. **Brassicas**: cabbages family – add manure or compost before planting. If soil is acidic, add some lime at least 3 weeks before planting. **Legumes and onions**: spread a thick layer of well rotted compost or leaf mould over soil several months before planting. Mulch after planting. **Potatoes and other crops**: add lots of compost or manure several months before planting.

**NOTE**: Crop rotation can also improve soil structure and fertility by alternating deep-rooted and shallow-rooted plants.

3. Harvest the crops from your first growing season. Dig up your freshly-picked plots and aerate the vacant soil thoroughly. Shift each crop over one plot for the following season.

**NOTE**: To ensure that infestation and disease don’t become a problem, no one crop should be planted in the same area more than once every three years.

**NOTE**: Keep records for what is planted in each plot each year and what results you see. Use this information when planting next year.