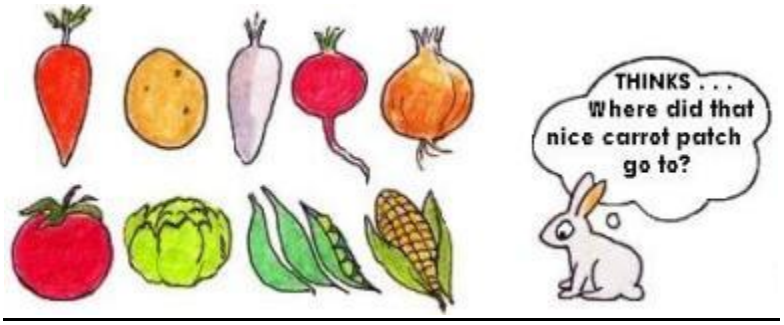


Vegetable Crop Rotation

Plan your crop rotation before the growing season starts, and mark out the plots on the ground so you know where to plant each crop.

Benefits of crop rotation:

Soil fertility: Different crops have different nutrient requirements. Changing crops annually reduces the chance of particular soil deficiencies developing as the balance of nutrients removed from the soil tends to even out over time.

Weed control: Some crops, like potatoes and squashes, with dense foliage or large leaves, suppress weeds, thus reducing maintenance and weed problems in following crops.

Pest and disease control: Soil pests and diseases tend to attack specific plant families over and over again. By rotating crops between sites, the pests tend to decline in the period when their host plants are absent, which helps reduce build-up of damaging populations of spores, eggs and pests. Common diseases that can be helped avoided by rotation include clubroot in brassicas and onion white rot.

Soil occupied by **Brassicas** (includes Radishes, Swedes, Turnips, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbages, Cauliflowers etc) should be followed by:

Root vegetables, followed by:

The **Potato** family (includes aubergines, peppers and tomatoes) followed by:

Legumes (Beans and Peas).

Perennial vegetables (such as **rhubarb** and **asparagus**) do not fit into the rotation. Certain annual crops such as **cucurbits** (courgettes, pumpkins, squashes, marrows and cucumbers), **salads** (endive, lettuce and chicory) and **sweetcorn** can be grown wherever convenient, merely avoiding growing them too often in the same place.