



Crop Rotation

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Make it a habit to change the location of crops each year. Rotating crops in the garden not only enhances soil fertility, but it can be effective against insect and disease pests that develop on a narrow range of vegetable plants. Moving crops to different sites isolates such pests from their food sources. This practice reduces the chances that soil borne insect and disease pests will gain a permanent foothold in your garden.

Backyard gardeners with limited space should at least avoid planting exactly the same crop or crops from the same family (see the following chart) year after year in the same part of the garden.

Top Ten Families of Vegetable Crops Grown in Home Gardens		
Scientific and Common Family Names, and Vegetables in Those Families		
<p>Amaryllidaceae (Onion Family) chives garlic leek onion</p> <p>Chenopodiaceae (Goosefoot Family) beet chard spinach</p> <p>Cruciferae (Mustard Family) broccoli Brussels sprouts cabbage cauliflower Chinese cabbage kale kohlrabi mustard greens radish rutabaga turnip</p>	<p>Compositae (Composite Family) endive globe artichoke Jerusalem artichoke lettuce</p> <p>Cucurbitaceae (Cucurbit Family) chayote cucumber muskmelon pumpkin squash watermelon</p> <p>Poaceae or Gramineae (Grass Family) corn</p> <p>Liliaceae (Lily Family) asparagus</p>	<p>Fabaceae (Legume Family) dry bean fava bean lima bean snap bean pea</p> <p>Solanaceae (Nightshade Family) eggplant tomato pepper potato</p> <p>Umbelliferae (Parsley Family) carrot celery Florence fennel parsley parsnip</p>
Adapted from Family Relationships Table, Vegetable Research & Information Center, University of California Cooperative Extension		