

Crop Rotation for the Small Garden

(adapted from NC Cooperative Extension article by Carol Hancock, Master Gardener Volunteer)

The ideal is to allow three years between planting of same families in the same garden area.

Reasons to Rotate Vegetable Crops

1. Reduction of harmful insects and plant diseases by rotating the location of plants from the same families on a piece of ground
2. Better plant nutrition by rotating location of plants that make the same nutritional demands on the soil on a piece of ground
3. Improvement of soil structure by rotating plants that have roots at various depths and that are cultivated with different techniques

Common Vegetable Families

- ✘ Sunflower: lettuces, sunflowers
- ✘ Goosefoot: beets, spinach, chard
- ✘ Mustard: mustard greens, rutabaga, kale, broccoli, cabbage
- ✘ Onion: garlic, shallots, leeks, onions, chives
- ✘ Gourd: melons, squashes, gourds
- ✘ Pea: Peas, beans
- ✘ Nightshade: peppers, tomatoes, eggplant, potato
- ✘ Carrot: dill, fennel, carrot, parsnip, parsley



Suggested Vegetable Varieties for Small Plot Gardens

(Adapted from Iowa State University publication PM870A)

- ✘ Beets: Red Ace, Ruby Queen
- ✘ Carrots: Denver's Half Long, Little Finger, Nantes Half Long
- ✘ Cucumber: Patio Pickle, Pickle Bush, Salad Bush, Spacemaster
- ✘ Eggplants: Black Beauty, Black Bell II
- ✘ Green Beans: Derby, Provider, Topcrop
- ✘ Lettuce: Black Seeded Simpson, Buttercrunch, Green Ice, Green Salad Bowl, Red Sails
- ✘ Pepper: Bell Boy, Cajun Belle(hot), Lady Bell, Mariachi(hot), New Ace, Orange Blaze
- ✘ Pole Beans: Blue Lake, Kentucky Blue
- ✘ Radishes: Champion, Cherry Belle, Comet Sparkler, White Icicle
- ✘ Spinach: Long Standing Bloomsdale, Melody, Tyee
- ✘ Summer Squash: Pic-N-Pic, Zucchini Elite
- ✘ Swiss Chard: Fordhook, Lucullus
- ✘ Tomatoes:
 - Standard: Bush Early Girl, Celebrity, Jetstar
 - Patio: Patio Hybrid, Patio Princess
 - Grape: Red Candy, Sweet Zen
- ✘ Winter Squash: Bush Delicata, Bush Table Queen