

CROP ROTATION – a very simple overview.

If you grow the same crop in the same place every year, pests and diseases of particular plants can rest in the soil and attack each year. Crops have different nutrient requirements so some will enjoy freshly manured soil, others will prefer the same soil a year later. Or some like lime (eg cabbages) and others dislike it (eg potatoes) so they should be grown in different areas.

Some books suggest a three-year rotation system, some suggest a four-year system and some a five year system. I try to follow a four-year rotation.

Year 1.

BRASSICAS in bed 1, **ROOT** veg. in bed 2, **LEGUMES** in bed 3, **POTATOES/CUCURBITS** in bed 4.

Year 2.

ROOT veg. in bed 1, **LEGUMES** in bed 2, **POTATOES/CUCURBITS** in bed 3, **BRASSICAS** in in bed 4.

And so on. It can all become complicated, especially when you don't have much space and you want to plant the next lot of crops as soon as you have made some space by harvesting something. A simple alternative to a strict crop rotation is to try to record where all your crops have been each year, and make sure that you don't put them in exactly the same place the year after.

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