

# VEGETABLE GARDEN PLANT ROTATION



Toledo  
GROWS

Toledo GROWS Best Practices—Tending a Garden

## Why rotate your vegetable garden plants?

### Disease and Pest Prevention:

- Vegetable plants with a similar genetic makeup are grouped in families. These related plants are prone to developing the same diseases and becoming infested by the same insect pests.
- Rotating crops by families helps maintain plant and soil health by stopping disease spread, insect infestations, and insect population growth.

### Effects on Soil Health and Fertility

- Diseases introduced by infected plants can persist in the soil for several years, depending on the soil health and disease virulence.
- Pests will also persist either by laying eggs in the soil or “remembering” where the plants are and revisiting the spot in subsequent years.
- Soil fertility is depleted. Plants in the same family planted in the same place every growing season use similar nutrients, causing soil fertility to decrease and allowing diseases in the soil to thrive.
- Plants grown in nutrient depleted soil have less ability to fight off diseases and to produce a nutritious, abundant crop.

## Rotating Tips:

- Before removing the plants at the end of each growing season, make a map of where each family was planted so you can be sure to rotate them every year.
- The plant families that have the most problems with diseases - especially when planted in the same location year after year - are the Mustard, Nightshade and Squash Families. Make those a priority for rotation.

## Rotate Vegetable Plants by Families:

<p><b>Amaryllis:</b> Chive, Garlic, Leek, Onion, Shallots</p>	<p><b>Mustard:</b> Arugula, Bok Choy, Broccoli, Brussel Sprouts, Cabbage, Collards, Kale, Kohlrabi, Mustard Greens, Radish, Rutabaga, Turnips</p>	<p><b>Pea:</b> Bean, Pea</p> <p><b>Squash:</b> Cucumber, Gourd, Melon, Pumpkin, Squash, Zucchini</p>
<p><b>Beet/Goosefoot:</b> Beets, Lamb’s Quarter, Spinach, Swiss Chard</p>	<p><b>Nightshade:</b> Eggplant, Potato, Pepper, Tomato, Tomatillo</p>	<p><b>Contact Us:</b> <b>Toledo GROWS</b> 900 Oneida St. Toledo, OH 43608 (419) 720-8714 <a href="http://www.toledogrows.org">www.toledogrows.org</a></p>
<p><b>Composite:</b> Endive, Chicory, Jerusalem Artichoke, Lettuce, Salsify, Sunflower, Radicchio</p>	<p><b>Parsley:</b> Carrot, Celery, Celeriac Coriander, Dill, Fennel, Parsley, Parsnip</p>	