



School Gardening
Resources

PRIMARY LEVEL

BORD BIA
IRISH FOOD BOARD

Crop Rotation

In The School Garden





Time of Year	September to June
Aim	To demonstrate to children the importance of rotating crops so that foes will not multiply, and diseases do not build up in the soil to harm the crops.
Resources Needed	A2 sized chart and marker, lollipop sticks, paint and/or markers and pencils.
Cross Curriculum Relevance	SESE: Living things, environmental awareness & care, recording, observing Maths: Measuring, counting, estimating, recording, active learning Art: Drawing map of rotations, making signs Informal Curriculum: Healthy Eating, Discover Primary Science



Process

Plants belong to different families. Therefore, it's good practice to place plants from a particular family together because they require the same nutrients. They also, unfortunately, suffer from similar diseases and foes. If the plants in a particular family are allowed to grow in the same space for several years these foes and diseases will increase so that the plants become endangered.



Crop Families

Plant Family	Varieties
Brassicas	Broccoli, Turnip, Swede, Radish, Cabbage, Brussels Sprouts, Cauliflower, Kale, Oriental Salads, Rocket, Kohlrabi
Onion (Alliaceae)	Leek, Garlic, Shallot, Onion, Spring Onion, Chives
Carrot (Umbelliferae)	Parsnip, Carrot, Parsley, Celery
Potato (Solanum)	Potatoes, Tomatoes, Peppers
Legumes (Leguminosae)	Peas, Beans
Daisy (Compositae)	Lettuce, Chicory, Endive, Globe and Jerusalem Artichokes
Marrow (Cucurbitaceae)	Pumpkin, Courgette, Cucumber, Melon, Squash
Grass	Sweetcorn, Cereals
Beetroot (Chenopodiaceae)	Beetroot, Spinach, Chard

Mnemonic for Remembering a Rotation Plan

People **L**ove **B**unches **O**f **R**oses.

P = Potatoes

L = Legumes

B = Brassicas

O = Onions

R = Roots

- ★ Peas and beans follow potatoes; Cabbages, radishes, swedes and turnips follow peas and beans; Garlic and onions follow brassicas; Carrots, parsnips, beetroot follow onions and garlic; Potatoes follow roots and so on.
- ★ This rotation is only a guide and does not need to be followed strictly. The golden rule is to leave a one- or two-year gap before growing the same family in the bed again.
- ★ Prioritise rotation of alliums, brassicas and potatoes.
- ★ Divide the A2 chart into columns and rows to record the plants grown in various locations in a particular year.
- ★ Make and decorate plant labels for your garden. Colour code the plant families so you can see each area clearly.

