

Brix Bounty Farm

Seed Selection, Crop Rotation and Succession Planting

Crop Rotation

It is common to develop crop rotations based on two primary strategies: 1) to avoid planting crops of the same family on the same soil in successive seasons (to minimized disease and pest pressure) and 2) to prioritize crops based on fertility needs.



Vegetable Families (including some of their members)

Alliums – Leeks, Onions, Garlic

Brassica – Arugula, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Collards, Kale, Mustard Greens, Radishes, Turnips and more

Chenopods – Beets, Spinach, Swiss Chard

Compositae – Lettuces, Sunflowers

Cucurbits – Cucumbers, Melons, Summer Squash, Winter Squash, Zucchini

Legumes – Beans, Peas

Solanaceae (Nightshades) – Eggplant, Peppers, Potatoes, Tomatoes

Umbels – Dill, Carrots, Celery, Celeriac, Fennel, Parsnip

Succession Planting

Using the strategy of succession planting can ensure consistent harvests of crops throughout the season.

Two basic strategies can help make this a reality: 1) planting different varieties of the same crop at the same time, that have different maturity dates 2) seeding crops on a weekly, bi-weekly or monthly schedule throughout the season.

Companion Planting

“Carrots Love Tomatoes: Secrets of Companion Planting for Successful Gardening” by Louise Riotte

Companion Planting Website - <http://www.companionplanting.net/>

Companion Planting: Basic Concept and Resources - <http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/complant.html>

“Great Garden Companions: A Companion Planting System for a Beautiful, Chemical-Free Vegetable Garden” by Sally Jean Cunningham

Planning Tools (the first two are for the production growers)

Crop Planning Software developed by Clayton Carter - <http://failbetterfarm.com/>

Crop Planning Spreadsheets produced by Dan Kaplan - <http://www.brookfieldfarm.org/cps.html>

Stella Natura Biodynamic Planting Calendar - <http://www.stellanatura.com/>

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Heirloom Seeds, Seed Starting, and Seed Saving

Heritage Wheat Conservancy - <http://www.growseed.org/>

"Growing Garden Seeds: A Manual for Gardeners and Small Farmers" by Robert Johnston, Jr. (avail Johnny's)

"The New Seed-Starters Handbook" by Nancy Bubel. Rodale Press

Seed Savers Exchange - <http://www.seedsavers.org/> - Decorah, IA – 563.382.5990 – publishers of Seed to Seed

"Seed to Seed: Seed Saving and Growing Techniques for Vegetable Gardeners" by Suzanne Ashworth

Slow Food Ark of Taste - http://www.slowfoodusa.org/index.php/programs/details/ark_of_taste/

Finding Quality Seeds (*especially useful for Northeast Varieties)

Alderbrook Farm in Russells Mills and Marvin Grain on Cove Road are two good local retailers of garden seed. Howland Greenhouses on Alden Road in Fairhaven was also suggested as a good source of plants locally.

Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA) Organic Seed Source List (2002) - http://www.mofga.org/mofga/other/oss_sources.html

OMRI Organic Seed Database - <http://seeds.omri.org/>

Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds - <http://rareseeds.com/> - Missouri

*Fedco Seeds - <http://www.fedcoseeds.com/> - Maine

Heirloom Seeds - <http://www.heirloomseeds.com/> - Pennsylvania

*High Mowing Organic Seeds - <http://www.highmowingseeds.com/> - Vermont

*Johnny's Selected Seeds - <http://www.johnnyseeds.com/Home.aspx> - Maine

Seeds of Change – <http://www.seedsofchange.com/> -

Territorial Seeds - <http://www.territorialseed.com/> - Oregon

Turtle Tree Seeds - <http://www.turtletreeseeds.com/> - NY – Biodynamic Seed Initiative

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