

A close-up photograph of a green plant, likely a squash or pumpkin, with large, serrated leaves. The leaves show signs of insect damage, with several holes and small, dark, irregular spots. A central stem is visible, and the background is a blurred mix of brown and green, suggesting a garden setting.

FALL 2021

garden task planner

WEST SEATTLE MICROCLIMATES

WEARYSTONEFARM.COM

Crop Rotation Families

Rotate Families for Pest and Disease Control

Adapted from Farmers' Almanac

1 Leguminosae (pea and bean family): Alfalfa, beans, clover, peas

Starting with legumes as a cover crop is a great way to add organic matter and improve the soil in a newly built bed. When turned under before seed set they fall under the "flower" category.

1 Alliaceae (onion family): Garlic, leek, onion, shallot

Start your rotation with either Alliaceae or Leguminosae, and don't plant the two families next to each other, they don't do well side by side or in succession. Important not to repeat this family in the same spot more than every 3-7 years.

2 Brassicaceae (cabbage or mustard family): Arugula, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, calabrese, cauliflower, kale, kohlrabi, mizuna, pak choi, radish, rutabaga, turnip

Important not to repeat this family in the same spot more than every 3-7 years. Club root is a concern in the Pacific Northwest, so don't allow mustard family weeds like pepperweed or shotweed to proliferate in the garden.

3 Solanaceae (nightshade family): Eggplant, peppers, potato, tomato

Important not to repeat this family in the same spot more than every 3-7 years. Be vigilant about volunteer potatoes and tomatoes; either transplant them to an appropriate spot or compost them.

4 Umbeliferae or Apiaceae (carrot or parsley family): Carrot, celeriac, celery, cilantro, dill, fennel, parsley, parsnip

5 Cucurbitaceae (squash or marrow family): Cucumber, gourd, marrow, melon, pumpkin, squash, zucchini

Important not to repeat this family in the same spot more than every 3-7 years. Be vigilant about volunteer potatoes and tomatoes; either transplant them to an appropriate spot or compost them.

5 Chenopodiaceae (beet family): Beets, chard, perpetual spinach, true spinach

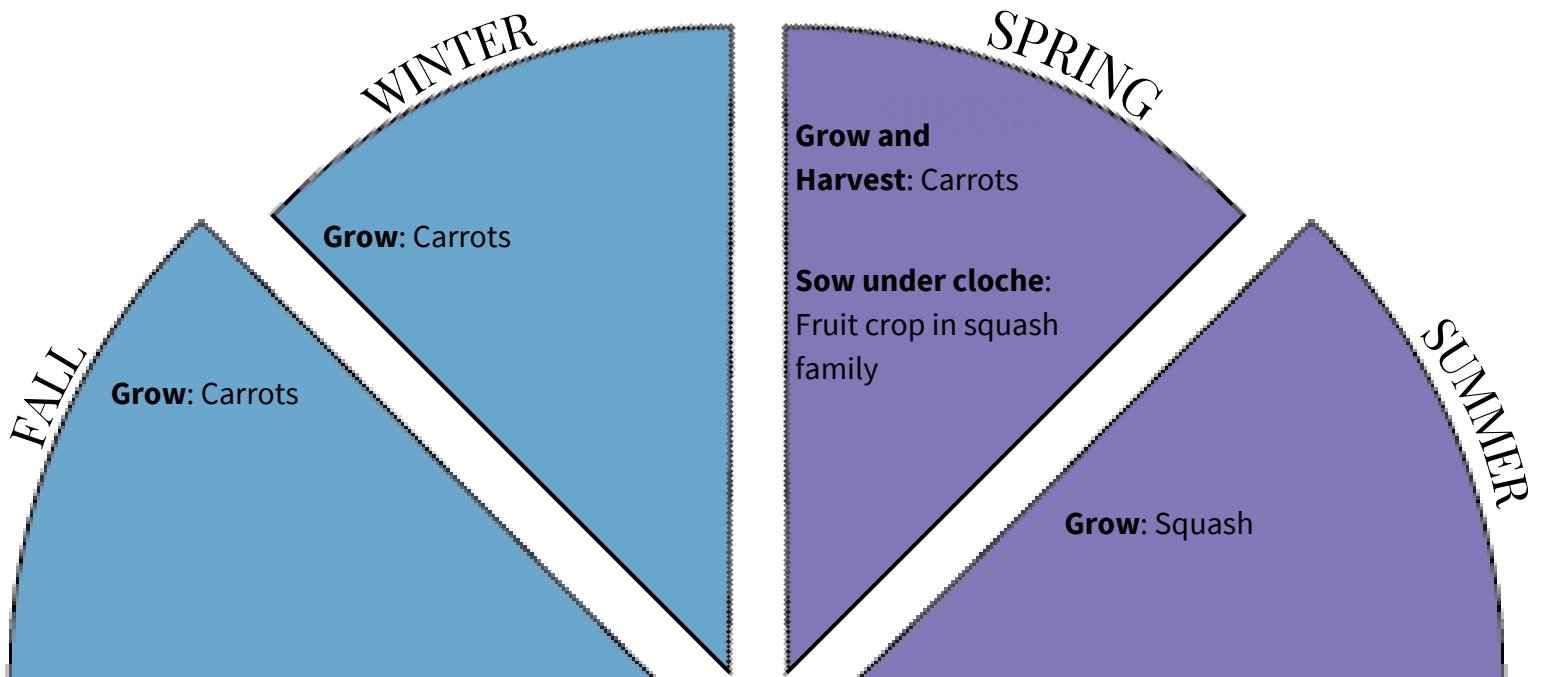
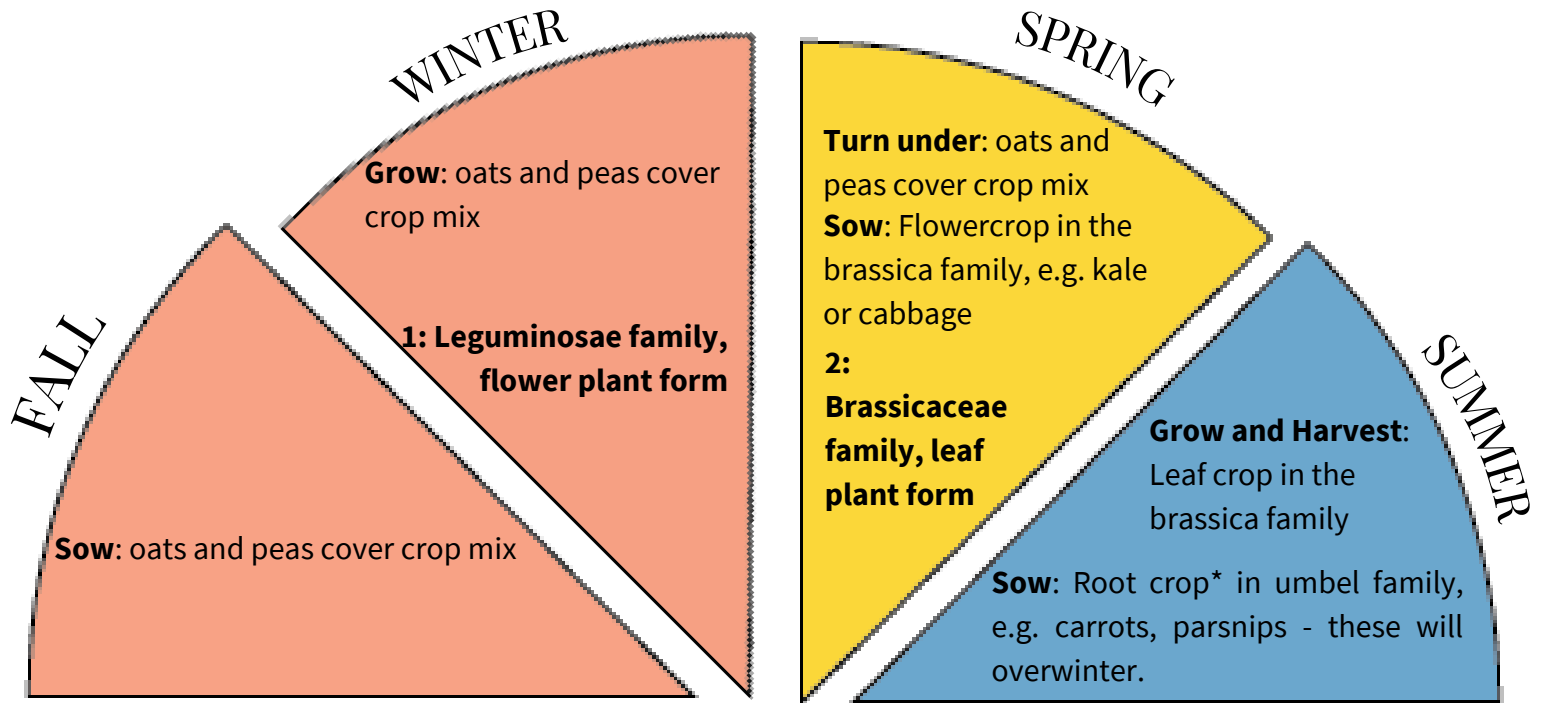
Either the beet family or the squash family can be placed fifth in your rotation.

Any Miscellaneous (non-rotation annual crops): Basil, corn salad, chicory, cress, endive, lettuce, New Zealand spinach, salsify, scorzonera, sweet corn

These plants can be fit in between any of the other families as needed, as long as they aren't planted year after year in the same place. If pests or disease become a problem, add the family of the problem crop to your rotation.

Rotation For Soil Structure and Fertility

To maintain good soil fertility and structure without too many inputs of fertilizer, rotate through leaf to root to flower to fruit. To determine which is which, think of the part of the plant that you harvest, for example carrots and beets would be in the root category, lettuce and parsley in the leaf category, broccoli and cauliflower in the flower category, and tomatoes and squash in the fruit category. Below is an example of two years in one bed, adapted from Seattle Tilth's Maritime Northwest Garden Guide.



*Ok to skip around somewhat with leaf-root-flower-fruit, as long as you're alternating heavy feeders with light & medium feeders, and adding fertilizer as needed.

LATE SUMMER/ EARLY FALL

As we begin harvesting, it's also time to plan and order seeds for next year.



WATER

Consistent and even watering not only helps plants grow but also aids in nutrient uptake and prevents diseases like blossom end rot. Powdery mildew is also prevalent at this time of year and can be minimized by watering well.

WEEDING & PRUNING

Keep up on weeding and start pruning your perennial fruits and herbs, cutting back to control growth and size. Now is a great time to harvest lots of herbs for a variety of uses, as long as you don't need the new spring growth.



PLAN NOW FOR 2022

Work backwards from what you want to have growing in summer in order to decide what to plant in your overwintering beds, or if necessary you can "reset" with a cover crop.

Fall 2021

SEPTEMBER TASKS

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

BIG GOALS

- PLANT COVER CROPS
- PLANT OVERWINTERING VEGETABLES
- SOW HARDY ANNUALS

Fall 2021

OCTOBER TASKS

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

BIG GOALS

PLANT COVER CROPS
KEEP BEDS WEEDED
ORDER SEEDS FOR SPRING AND SUMMER CROPS

Fall 2021

NOVEMBER TASKS

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

BIG GOALS

CLEAN UP LEAVES AND OTHER DEBRIS
TRANSPLANT SHRUBS AND TREES



Schedule a consultation and get your garden thriving!

[BOOK NOW](#)

Katie Kadwell has spent nearly 20 years building and maintaining all kinds of gardens. Brent Curtis has over 20 years experience in operations and logistics. Let us show you how to turn any space into a unique edible oasis in the city.

We offer online consulting anywhere and in person consulting within our West Seattle service area.



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