

## CROPPING PLAN

### Rotations

Plants from the same family tend to be susceptible to the same pests and diseases. They also have different nutrient demands, rooting depths and weeding requirements. It therefore makes sense not to grow the same plants year after year in one place to prevent the build up of problems. The cropping plan overleaf shows a suggested layout for a 4-year rotation. Move the crops one plot clockwise each year. For example, in year two the brassicas would move on to Plot 4 and have the benefit of the nitrogen fixed by the beans and peas. In our Selection Packs we have tried to group plants from the same family together to make it easier to follow a rotation.

### Plot size

A full-size allotment is commonly 10 rod, pole, perch or lug. These are local names for an ancient land measurement of 30 ¼ square yards. Thus a typical whole plot would be 302 ½ square yards (about 250 square metres). This would provide enough vegetables for most family's needs.

Each plot on our cropping plan is about 20 feet wide by 30 foot long and the total area including the paths is 300 square yards. The plan shows how much room our packs occupy when planted at the recommended spacings. A glasshouse & compost heaps are also shown making Plots 1 and 4 smaller than the others, but in practice these could be in a separate area with the perennial crops (asparagus & globe artichokes).

The August Oriental Selection can be planted after the March cabbages, calabrese and cauliflowers have been harvested.

### Seed-raised crops

Tap-rooted vegetables such as carrots and parsnips don't transplant well and tend to produce fangy roots. They are best grown from seed. Peas and broad beans have large seeds and are usually successful if you can keep the birds off. We are doing trials this Summer and may offer them in modules next year. Potatoes are grown by planting 'seed potatoes' and should be certified virus free.

### Further information:

**Basic guides available to buy on our website:** (postage & packing 65p per book).

*Vegetable Growing for beginners* by Pauline Pears. A basic introduction (16 pages, A5) £1.50

*Grow Vegetables* by Pauline Pears - compact yet informative guide for beginners £2.99 (green essentials series; 64 pages).

*Successful Allotments* by Pauline Pears – for new allotment holders £2.99 (green essentials series; 64 pages).

### Reference Books:

*Encyclopaedia of Organic Gardening*

Edited by Pauline Pears (HDRA) published by Dorling Kindersley Limited (2001)

ISBN 07513 33816 (416 pages) £25

*The Half-hour Allotment* (Royal Horticultural Society) by Lia Leendertz, published by

Frances Lincoln Ltd. (2006) ISBN 07112 26059 (160 pages – many colour photographs) £16.99

*Grow your own vegetables* by Joy Larkcom, published by Frances Lincoln (2002) ISBN 07112 1963 X (384 pages) £9.99

*The Natural Gardener* by Val Bourne, published by Frances Lincoln (2004)

ISBN 07112 2263C (168 pages -180 photographs) £16.99

### Organic Gardening Organisation:

[www.gardenorganic.org.uk](http://www.gardenorganic.org.uk) – the new working name for:

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