

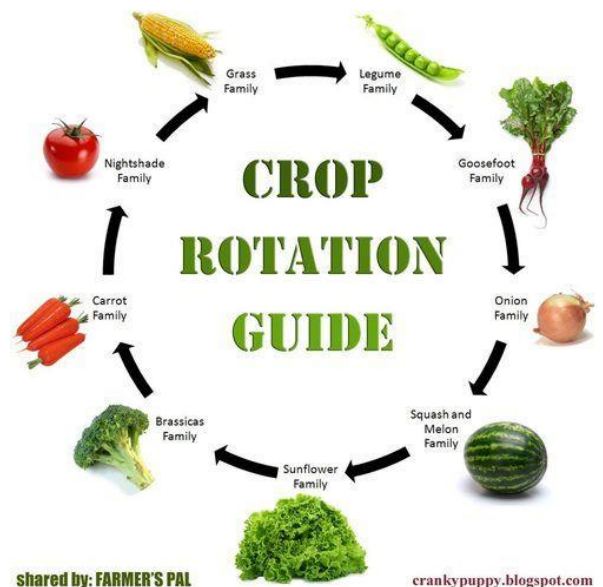
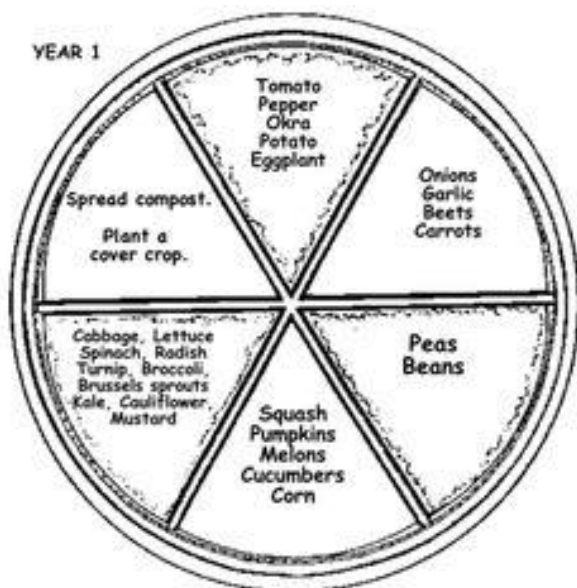


ADDITIONAL CELEBRATORY EVENTS/EXERCISES

Garden Party

Have readily available a range of suitable garden tools, containers, seeds and seedlings. Allocate a small piece of ground or a container to each member of the family suited to their age and ability. Each person prepares the soil, seeds/plants, and begins to care for their own choice of vegetable. A circular vegetable garden works well in limited space, with each member allocated a small segment and a different type of vegetable in a sequence that allows for effective future crop rotation (See illustration below).

You need not be excluded from this activity if you have no garden. Introduce window boxes or pot plants with selected herbs and vegetables on a window sill or balcony, and have your picnic in the lounge or a nearby park.



Have an umbrella handy for an outdoor picnic lunch or afternoon tea when all the gardening has been completed, so that you can share a celebratory meal outdoors.

Conclude with a prayer of blessing for the work done in the garden and the changes this will bring to the well-being of the family and care of the earth (See example below).

Creator God,

all the earth belongs to You and You call forth fruits from the soil.

Thank you for giving us the joy of connecting with the earth today as we tilled the soil, seeded and planted food for a future day.

We often forget that food doesn't just conveniently come from a store, but requires hard labour, good nutrients and consistent care.

Bless the vegetables we've planted today; bring them to harvest

so that our bodies may be fed by the work of our hands and blessed

by the well-being that springs directly from Your earth and its good soil.

Bless our Earth-keeper celebration and the food we are now about to share. Amen.