

Growing Root Crops in Dunedin

Rotate crop families to reduce the loss of soil nutrients and decrease the likelihood of disease in crops.

Carrots and parsnips are in the same family as celery and fennel.

Beetroot is in the same family as silver beet and quinoa.

Turnips, swedes and radishes are in the cabbage family with cauliflower, broccoli and Brussels sprouts.

None of them grow well in very acid soils.

Have at least these three families of vegetables that you keep in groups and move around the garden. Then the same family of vegetables does not grow in the same soil for more than one year and the family does not grow in the same soil again for three or four years.

Example of four crop rotation for root crops in a raised bed garden

This system allows liming every four years and manuring every two years

	PLOT 1	PLOT 2	PLOT 3	PLOT 4
YEAR 1	Lime heavily and sow legumes (broad beans peas and bush beans)	Manure heavily and plant potatoes	Carrots Parsnip Celery Fennel	Nitrogenous manure then Cabbages Radishes Turnips Swedes
YEAR 2	Nitrogenous manure then Cabbages Radishes Turnips Swedes	Lime heavily and sow legumes (broad beans peas and bush beans)	Manure heavily and plant potatoes	Carrots Parsnip Celery Fennel
YEAR 3	Carrots Parsnip Celery Fennel	Nitrogenous manure then Cabbages Radishes Turnips Swedes	Lime heavily and sow legumes (broad beans peas and bush beans)	Manure heavily and plant potatoes
YEAR 4	Manure heavily and plant potatoes	Carrots Parsnip Celery Fennel	Nitrogenous manure then Cabbages Radishes Turnips Swedes	Lime heavily and sow legumes (broad beans peas and bush beans)

Keep beetroot and silverbeet together in any of the plots except potatoes (that is too acidic).

(It's also important to keep the onion family together and rotate to avoid disease – they could go with the legumes).

Sowing timetable for root crops

Parsnip:	Mid-August -	→	end of October.
Beetroot:	Mid-August -	→	end of December.
Carrots:	Mid-August -	→	mid January.
Turnips:	Mid-August -	→	mid February.
Radishes:	Mid-August -	→	end of February.

References: Star Garden Guide.
Grow Your Own Fruit and Vegetables. Lawrence D Hills.
The Complete know and grow Vegetables: Bleasdale, Salter & others.