



## Black Creek Garden Resource Network 2017



## **Succession Planting Workshop**

# What does “succession planting” mean and why?

“Succession planting” is a way of planning and growing in your garden so that you get continuous harvest throughout the growing season. It often involves planting multiple times, sometimes of the same crops, throughout the season. This is so that you are making the most of the growing season, and also the space that you have.

With succession planting, as soon as one crop is finished for the season, something different is planted in the same spot. This is so that there are no bare spots in the garden and there is always something growing all the space that you have.

# Things to consider:

1. Climate - when can you plant what?
2. Days to maturity - how long does it take different vegetables to grow? How long before you can harvest?
3. Choosing different varieties
4. Rotating where you plant from year to year:
  - a. Manage nutrients
  - b. Manage pests
5. Other considerations
6. Simple examples
7. Practice activity



# Climate

Toronto frost dates: May 9 and October 6

Average lowest and highest temps determine what plants will grow well here

<b>Approximate Seasonal Guideline</b>	
<b>Cool weather</b>	<b>Warm weather</b>
Peas, radish, turnips, lettuce, mustards, broccoli and other brassica family crops, beets, spinach, onions, garlic, chives,	Tomatos, peppers, eggplants, other nighshade family crops, summer and winter squash, melons, cucumbers, most herbs, flowers, beans, potatos and sweet potatoes, okra, corn, pumpkins

# When can I plant and when will I harvest?

- See 2 planting calendar examples
  - Example 1: Master gardener calendar
  - Example 2: Foodshare school garden calendar
- Related to Days to Maturity



# Days to Maturity: How long does it take to grow?

Approximate categories		
Fast 15 - 30 days	Medium 30 - 60 days	Slow 60+ days
Peas, radish,, lettuce, mustards, spinach, kale, chard	Turnips, beets, onions, Tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, other night-shade family crops, most herbs, flowers, beans,okra, carrots	Broccoli, garlic, chives, summer and winter squash, melons, cucumbers, corn, pumpkins, potatoes and sweet potatoes

# Continuous planting for continuous harvest

## *Some vegetables for succession planting*

Vegetables for Succession Planting	
Vegetable	Plant every:
Radishes	10 days
Lettuce	2 weeks
Summer squash	3 to 4 weeks
Snap beans	3 weeks
Sweet corn	2 to 3 weeks

# Crop Rotation: helps manage nutrients and pests

- Different crops uptake different nutrients
- Some crops need a lot of fertility (heavy feeders), some are ok with less (light feeders), and some feed the soil (givers - eg: legumes - peas, beans, clover)
- Avoid planting members of the same family in the same spot, within one season and also from season to season. Prevents fertility and pests issues.
- Apply compost in the soil before you re-plant in the same spot. Also apply compost at the start and end of each season.
- Pests prevention
- \*\* see Plant Families Chart



# Other considerations:

- **Space:** how much space does each vegetable take up?
  - Can put small plants that don't compete with nutrients in between larger crops
- **Above ground height:**
  - Can put shorter and shade loving plants that don't compete with nutrients under tall plants
- **Below ground root depth:** shallow vs. deep roots, spreading vs. tap roots
- **Fast and slow growing**





Corn can provide the shade that cucumbers enjoy.



An example of using fast/slow maturing to advantage is to interplant carrots with radishes.



Lettuce plants can be nestled among other, larger plants for the partial shade they need.



Sow thistle grows with lettuce in one example of shallow/deep rooting symbiosis. Their roots do not compete with each other.

# Example Rotations

## Intensive rotation with fast crops:

Peas > Mustards > Lettuce

Spinach > Radish > Carrots

Scallions > Lettuce > Spinach

Lettuce > Scallions > Baby Dill

Radish > Lettuce > Spinach

## Double crop rotation with 2 medium crops:

Potatoes > Beans

Peas > Carrots

Beets > Turnips

## Double crop rotation with 1 slow & 1 fast:

Radish > Tomatoes

Spinach > Hot Peppers

Lettuce > Winter Squash

## Let's practice:

1. Imaginary scenario or your existing crop list
2. 4 fast plants, 4 medium plants, 2 slow plants
3. ID: cool, warm, plant / harvest dates, DTM, family, space
4. Map out your area - how much space. Or - how many different areas do you have?
5. Which can be planted in spring? Put those somewhere
6. When will they be done? Is there room and time to plant something after?
7. Can you shift things around to optimize time and space?

<b>Growing Area (area = one pot)</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>August</b>	<b>September</b>	<b>October</b>
<b>Area 1  (option: fast)</b>							
<b>Area 2  (option: med)</b>							
<b>Area 3  (option: slow)</b>							