Real Fields on Real Farms:
Sample Four- and Five-Year Vegetable Crop Rotations

		Calvert's Gift Farm Jack Gurley, Md.	**Even Star Organic Farm** Brett Grohsgal, Md.	**Four Winds Farm** Polly & Jay Armour, N.Y.
Y1	Winter	Garlic	Crimson Clover	Oats
	Spring	Winter Squash	Tomatoes **OR** Peppers	Potatoes **OR** Tomatoes[a]
	Summer			
	Fall		Red Clover / Winter Brassicas / Lettuce (strip crop)	Straw mulch / Garlic (in alternate beds)[b]
Y2	Winter	Spinach	Red Clover	
	Spring		Okra – Flowers – Basil	Winter Squash (in alternate beds) / Straw mulch
	Summer	Soybeans		
	Fall		Winter Brassicas / Vetch / Lettuce (strip crop)	Straw mulch
Y3	Winter	Oats	Vetch	
	Spring	Fava Beans		Beans
	Summer		Cucurbits	
	Fall	Brassicas		Compost
Y4	Winter	Vetch	Crimson Clover / Lettuce (strip crop) / Winter Brassicas	
	Spring		Red Clover	Direct-Seeded Quick Crops / Small-Seeded Greens / Radishes
	Summer	Tomatoes		Cucumbers (mulched with straw) / Lettuce
	Fall	Garlic	Red Clover / Winter Brassicas / Lettuce (strip crop)	
Y5	Winter	*Return to Year One*	*Return to Year One*	*Return to Year One*
	Spring			
	Summer			
	Fall			

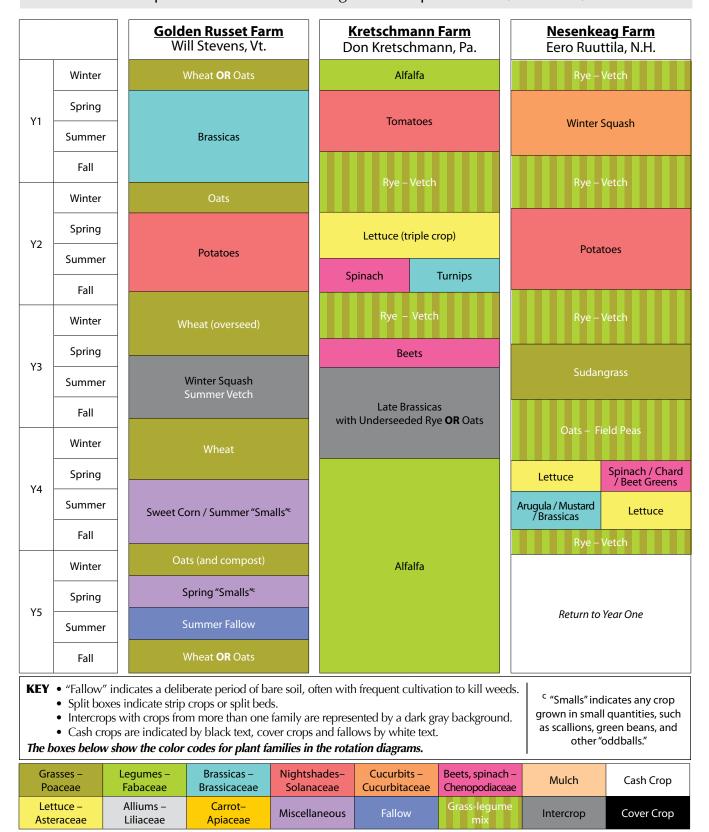**KEY** • "Fallow" indicates a deliberate period of bare soil, often with frequent cultivation to kill weeds.
• Split boxes indicate strip crops or split beds.
• Intercrops with crops from more than one family are represented by a dark gray background.
• Cash crops are indicated by black text, cover crops and fallows by white text.
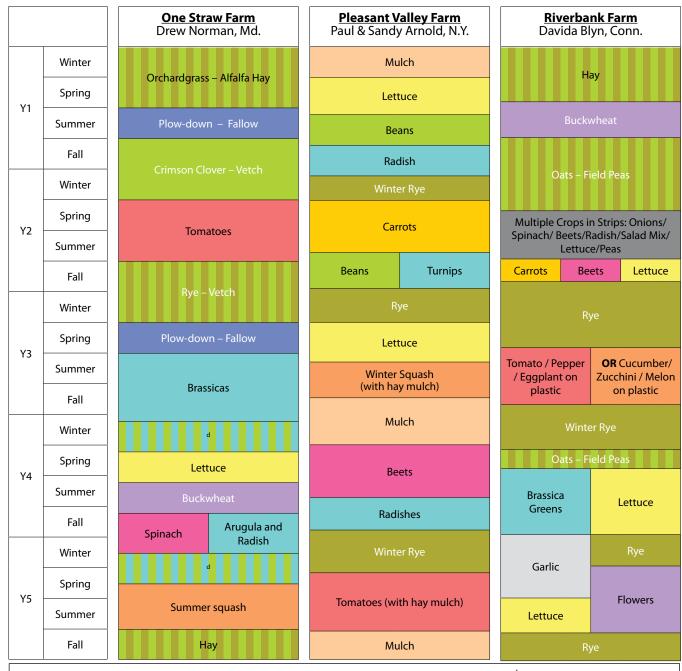***The boxes below show the color codes for plant families in the rotation diagrams.***

[a] This rotation switches between potatoes and tomatoes in alternate cycles.
[b] This rotation is designed around alternate beds.

Grasses–Poaceae	Legumes – Fabaceae	Brassicas – Brassicaceae	Nightshades–Solanaceae	Cucurbits – Cucurbitaceae	Beets, spinach – Chenopodiaceae	Mulch	Cash Crop
Lettuce – Asteraceae	Alliums – Liliaceae	Carrot–Apiaceae	Miscellaneous	Fallow	Grass-legume mix	Intercrop	Cover Crop

Real Fields on Real Farms:
Sample Four- and Five-Year Vegetable Crop Rotations (*continued*)

		Golden Russet Farm Will Stevens, Vt.	**Kretschmann Farm** Don Kretschmann, Pa.	**Nesenkeag Farm** Eero Ruuttila, N.H.
Y1	Winter	Wheat **OR** Oats	Alfalfa	Rye – Vetch
	Spring	Brassicas	Tomatoes	Winter Squash
	Summer			
	Fall		Rye – Vetch	Rye – Vetch
Y2	Winter	Oats	Lettuce (triple crop)	Potatoes
	Spring	Potatoes		
	Summer		Spinach / Turnips	
	Fall		Rye – Vetch	Rye – Vetch
Y3	Winter	Wheat (overseed)	Beets	
	Spring		Late Brassicas with Underseeded Rye **OR** Oats	Sudangrass
	Summer	Winter Squash Summer Vetch		
	Fall			Oats – Field Peas
Y4	Winter	Wheat	Alfalfa	Lettuce / Spinach / Chard / Beet Greens
	Spring	Sweet Corn / Summer "Smalls"[c]		Arugula / Mustard / Brassicas / Lettuce
	Summer			Rye – Vetch
	Fall			
Y5	Winter	Oats (and compost)		*Return to Year One*
	Spring	Spring "Smalls"[c]		
	Summer	Summer Fallow		
	Fall	Wheat **OR** Oats		

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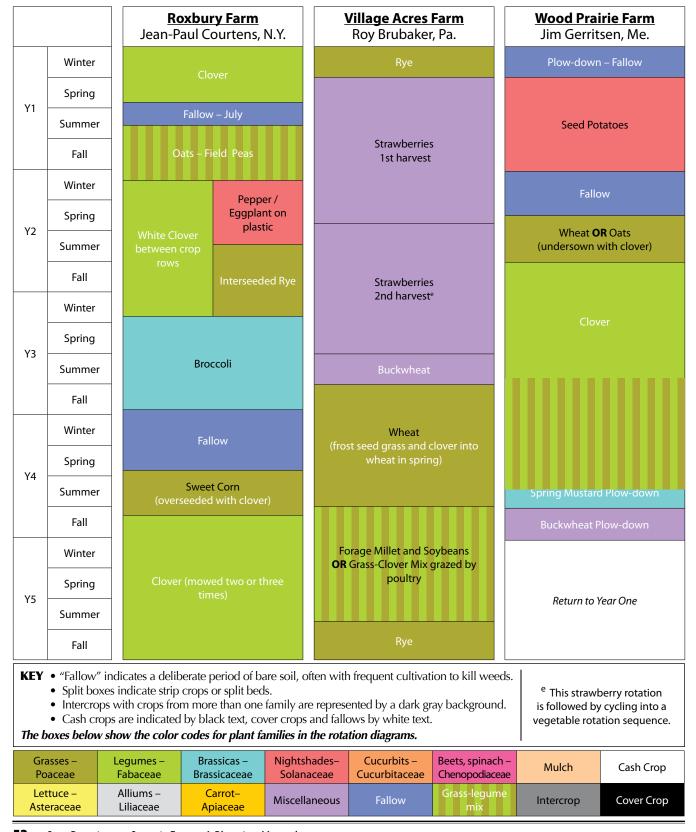***The boxes below show the color codes for plant families in the rotation diagrams.***

[c] "Smalls" indicates any crop grown in small quantities, such as scallions, green beans, and other "oddballs."

Grasses – Poaceae	Legumes – Fabaceae	Brassicas – Brassicaceae	Nightshades– Solanaceae	Cucurbits – Cucurbitaceae	Beets, spinach – Chenopodiaceae	Mulch	Cash Crop
Lettuce – Asteraceae	Alliums – Liliaceae	Carrot– Apiaceae	Miscellaneous	Fallow	Grass-legume mix	Intercrop	Cover Crop

Real Fields on Real Farms:
Sample Four- and Five-Year Vegetable Crop Rotations (*continued*)

		One Straw Farm Drew Norman, Md.	**Pleasant Valley Farm** Paul & Sandy Arnold, N.Y.	**Riverbank Farm** Davida Blyn, Conn.
Y1	Winter	Orchardgrass – Alfalfa Hay	Mulch	Hay
	Spring		Lettuce	
	Summer	Plow-down – Fallow	Beans	Buckwheat
	Fall	Crimson Clover – Vetch	Radish	Oats – Field Peas
Y2	Winter		Winter Rye	
	Spring	Tomatoes	Carrots	Multiple Crops in Strips: Onions/ Spinach/ Beets/Radish/Salad Mix/ Lettuce/Peas
	Summer			Carrots / Beets / Lettuce
	Fall	Rye – Vetch	Beans / Turnips	Rye
Y3	Winter		Rye	
	Spring	Plow-down – Fallow	Lettuce	
	Summer	Brassicas	Winter Squash (with hay mulch)	Tomato / Pepper / Eggplant on plastic **OR** Cucumber/ Zucchini / Melon on plastic
	Fall		Mulch	Winter Rye
Y4	Winter	d	Beets	Oats – Field Peas
	Spring	Lettuce		Brassica Greens / Lettuce
	Summer	Buckwheat	Radishes	Garlic / Rye
	Fall	Spinach / Arugula and Radish	Winter Rye	Lettuce / Flowers
Y5	Winter	d	Tomatoes (with hay mulch)	
	Spring	Summer squash		
	Summer			
	Fall	Hay	Mulch	Rye

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The boxes below show the color codes for plant families in the rotation diagrams.

d Harvest of brassica and fall cool-season crops extends into winter. Clovers may be inter-seeded at the last cultivation.

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Lettuce – Asteraceae	Alliums – Liliaceae	Carrot– Apiaceae	Miscellaneous	Fallow	Grass-legume mix	Intercrop	Cover Crop

Real Fields on Real Farms:
Sample Four- and Five-Year Vegetable Crop Rotations (*continued*)

		Roxbury Farm Jean-Paul Courtens, N.Y.	**Village Acres Farm** Roy Brubaker, Pa.	**Wood Prairie Farm** Jim Gerritsen, Me.
Y1	Winter	Clover	Rye	Plow-down – Fallow
	Spring		Strawberries 1st harvest	Seed Potatoes
	Summer	Fallow – July		
	Fall	Oats – Field Peas		
Y2	Winter	White Clover between crop rows / Pepper / Eggplant on plastic		Fallow
	Spring			Wheat **OR** Oats (undersown with clover)
	Summer			
	Fall	White Clover between crop rows / Interseeded Rye	Strawberries 2nd harvest[e]	Clover
Y3	Winter	Broccoli		
	Spring			
	Summer		Buckwheat	
	Fall		Wheat (frost seed grass and clover into wheat in spring)	
Y4	Winter	Fallow		
	Spring			Spring Mustard Plow-down
	Summer	Sweet Corn (overseeded with clover)		Buckwheat Plow-down
	Fall		Forage Millet and Soybeans **OR** Grass-Clover Mix grazed by poultry	
Y5	Winter	Clover (mowed two or three times)		*Return to Year One*
	Spring			
	Summer			
	Fall		Rye	

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[e] This strawberry rotation is followed by cycling into a vegetable rotation sequence.

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Lettuce – Asteraceae	Alliums – Liliaceae	Carrot– Apiaceae	Miscellaneous	Fallow	Grass-legume mix	Intercrop	Cover Crop

Real Fields on Real Farms:
Sample Four- and Five-Year Vegetable Crop Rotations (*continued*)

		Beech Grove Farm Anne and Eric Nordell, Pa.
Y1	Winter	Fallow
	Spring	Oats
	Summer	Cultivated Fallow
	Fall	Field Peas
Y2	Winter	Field Peas
	Spring	Onion
	Summer	Onion
	Fall	
Y3	Winter	Rye
	Spring	Rye
	Summer	Cultivated Fallow
	Fall	Rye – Vetch
Y4	Winter	Rye – Vetch
	Spring	
	Summer	Lettuce / Carrot / Spinach
	Fall	Lettuce / Carrot / Spinach / Rye (interseeded)
Y5	Winter	*Return to Year One*
	Spring	
	Summer	
	Fall	

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Grasses – Poaceae	Legumes – Fabaceae	Brassicas – Brassicaceae	Nightshades– Solanaceae	Cucurbits – Cucurbitaceae	Beets, spinach – Chenopodiaceae	Mulch	Cash Crop
Lettuce – Asteraceae	Alliums – Liliaceae	Carrot– Apiaceae	Miscellaneous	Fallow	Grass-legume mix	Intercrop	Cover Crop

Real Fields on Real Farms:
Sample Four- and Five-Year Grain Crop Rotations

		Martens Farm Klaas & Mary-H Martens, NY	**Myer Farm** John Myer, NY	**Fair Hills Farm** Ed Fry, MD
Y1	Winter	Red clover (plowdown)	Alfalfa (fourth year)	Rye (silage)
	Spring	Corn		Corn (grain) Rye (overseeded)
	Summer			
	Fall			Rye (silage)
Y2	Winter	Fallow	Corn	
	Spring			Corn (silage)
	Summer	Soybean		
	Fall		Fallow	Rye (silage)
Y3	Winter	Winter wheat		
	Spring	Winter wheat Red clover (overseeded)	Soybean	Corn (silage)
	Summer		Winter wheat	
	Fall	Red clover		Fallow
Y4	Winter	*Return to Year One*	Winter wheat Red clover (overseeded)	Alfalfa
	Spring		Red clover	
	Summer			
	Fall			
Y5	Winter			
	Spring			
	Summer			
	Fall			

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The boxes below show the color codes for plant families in the rotation diagrams.

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Lettuce – Asteraceae	Alliums – Liliaceae	Carrot– Apiaceae	Miscellaneous	Fallow	Grass-legume mix	Intercrop	Cover Crop