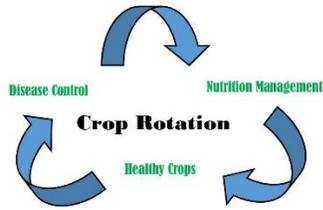


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Crop rotations are a producer's first line of defense for a broad range of potential crop diseases. Many crop diseases are either soil borne or residue borne. Many of the root rot disease pathogens like Fusarium root rot, club root in canola, or root rot in peas will survive in the soil for several years. While varietal resistance and seed treatments are valuable tools for managing these diseases good crop rotation practices should be paramount in a producers cropping plans. Many leaf diseases like septoria and tanspot which survive on crop residue can also be significantly reduced through good crop rotation practices.

Many crop rotation specialists suggest having four crop types in a rotation for maximum benefit. Mixing cool season grasses, cool season broadleaves, warm season grasses, and warm season broadleaf crops in a rotation can give maximum crop diversification and maximum benefits to disease rotation, water use, and nutrient use differences. Changing economics and cash flow needs impact crop rotation choices but extending recropping intervals for crops like canola and peas can help avoid major disease issues.

PS: Rotating vegetable crops in a garden area can also mean healthier vegetable plants.