

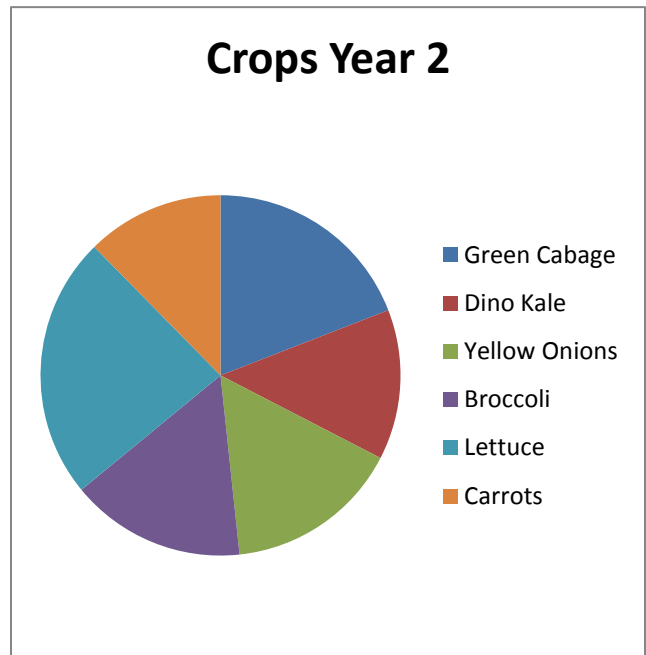
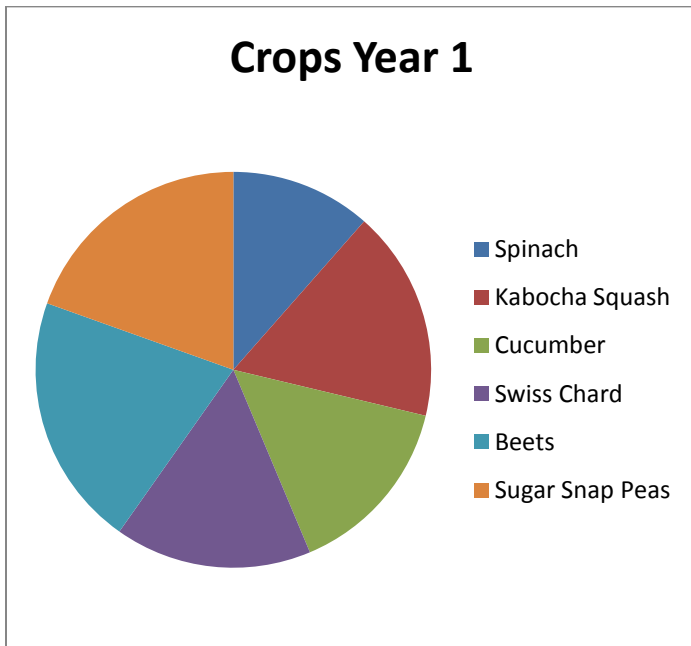
## Soil Loves Crop Rotation!

It is very important in organic agriculture to rotate your crops accordingly to ensure the best health for the land and your crops. Grant Farms implements a six year crop rotation schedule that allows us to create intricate plantings to help us maximize our vegetable yields and nourish the soil.

We pride ourselves on delicious organic produce! However, that organic produce comes with a lot of work. It is much harder to get rid of diseases and pests because of the strict rules prohibiting the use of insecticides and herbicides. But that's just the way we (and hopefully you!) like it!

We have developed an extensive crop rotation system that allows us to stay one step ahead of potential farming diseases and/or pests. To begin, you must diversify your farm with several different types and varieties of crops. We grow over 30 different types of crops ranging from leafy greens, to potatoes, wheat, and squash. Within those types of veggies we grow over 85 different varieties. All of these crops were selected because of unique characteristics, and having a range of different vegetables allows us to create a mosaic of produce.

We organize our fields into "pizzas" with each slice being a different crop. Each year these slices are rotated, not necessarily in a clock like fashion, but more in a complicated geometrical formula that allows us to diagnose and treat areas where pests/disease have popped up. We then move these crops so the colonies of disease/pests are not able to survive. Take the example below...



Ready for a history lesson?

How farms treat the soil is extremely important to the livelihood of ecological systems & long-term yield capacity. The Dust Bowl could have easily been prevented with a little forethought. In fact, the Dust Bowl was primarily caused by decades of extensive farming without crop rotation, which exacerbated severe drought brought on by deep plowing of the Great Plains – displacing deep-rooted grasses that normally kept soil in place and trapped moisture even during periods of drought and high winds. Ruining the soil destroyed the land's natural nutrients which prevented vegetables from growing. Unfortunately, crop rotation is not used extensively across the US – the majority of farm acreage is used for mass corn and soy production.