

northeast region



NER
Meeting

Thursday, June 14 @

10AM

at Zionltes Farm in
Free Hill, St. Ann!!



Who says **organic** yields
smaller crops?!?

Look at that radish!

Asante Adonai Farm

Regional News and Updates from JOAM!!!!

A big thank you to our gracious hosts, Cecile and Leahcim Semaj, for welcoming us to Asante Adonai Farm for the April NER Meeting. We began our day with a wonderful tour of their property. Asante Adonai is not just a farm, it is a gathering spot for good people with good energy! Currently, the farm is growing yam, banana, corn, radish, baby bok choy, tatsoi, varieties of lettuce, callaloo, carrot, pine, and different fruit trees including ackee and soursop. Talk about diversity!

Asante Adonai is also in partnership with Zionltes Farm offering organically grown produce to a variety of clients. Yes, this is the beginning of creating an organic clearing house of available farm fresh produce across the NER!

During the afternoon, NER members discussed the benefits of crop rotation.

We learned that more information is needed to continue to demystify the technique of crop rotation, so the rest of the newsletter is dedicated to just that!

JOAM News! Durga's Farm in Orange Hill, St. Ann will be offering a 2 day course in Agroforestry. Contact Lise or Michael @ 869-6154 or durgacharron@yahoo.com. DENBIGH August 4-6 2012 All hands will be needed to represent JOAM and the NER. *Please let us know when you will participate or volunteer!*

What are you growing? We continue to record information about what organic farmers in the region are reaping, what they have in the ground, and what long term crops they have.

Why is this important? Documentation for starters, but we strive for economic viability - marketability for organic farmers and organic produce. If you let us know your available produce, we can support you in this process.

Recipe of the Month: Fertilize and Deter Pests?

Try using used coffee grounds!

What you need:

Used coffee grounds
5 gallon bucket

Coffee grounds act as a great natural deterrent for ants, snails, and slugs, AND is a good source of nitrogen. Try these simple tricks to help protect and nurture your crops!!!

- Add grounds directly to the soil in your garden for a nutrient shot.
- Create a slug and snail barrier. Coffee grounds are both abrasive and acidic, so a barrier of grounds placed near slug-prone plants may just save them from these garden pests.
- Make coffee ground "tea." Add two cups of used coffee grounds to a 5-gallon bucket of water. Let the "tea" steep overnight. Use as a liquid fertilizer for crops.

Thursday, **June 14, 2012** @ 10 AM

Our next NER meeting will be at Zionltes Farm, in Free Hill, St. Ann. We will be focusing on Organic Production and Marketing. Hope to see you there!

Directions: At Priory, make the left or right at the stoplight up the hill passing Island Dairies on your right hand side. Continue up the mountainside until you reach a yellow and green bus stop. Make a right onto the Free Hill Road. Continue traveling until you reach a three-story, white, unfinished house. A Zionltes Farm sign is on the light post. Bear left onto the very rocky dirt road. At the gate, make a left into the lane, park and walk down the hill. Call Lisa with any questions: 562-9760

"June 14, 2012"

NER meeting

Farmer's Almanac

The BEST Growing Days for April 2012

May 30th - 31st

Excellent Time For Planting Corn, Beans, Peppers, And Other Aboveground Crops. Favorable For Sowing Hay, Fodder Crops, And Grains. Plant Flowers.

June 1st - 3rd

Extra Good For Planting Fall Lettuce, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Collards, And Other Leafy Vegetables. All Aboveground Crops Planted Now Will Do Well. Plant Seedbeds.

June 6 - 8th

Plant Late Beets, Potatoes, Onions, Carrots, And Other Root Crops.

June 11 - 13th

Favorable Time For Planting Late Root Crops. Also Good For Vine Crops That Can Be Planted Now. Set Strawberry Plants. Good Days For Transplanting.

June 16 - 17th

Good Days For Planting Root Crops. Good Days For Transplanting.

June 20th - 21st

Plant Tomatoes, Beans, Peppers, Corn, Cotton, And Other Aboveground Crops On These Most Fruitful Days. Plant Seedbeds And Flower Gardens.

June 26 - 28th

Favorable For Planting Peas, Beans, Tomatoes, And Other Fall Crops Bearing Yield Aboveground. Sow Grains And Forage Crops Now. Plant Flowers.

June 29 - 30th

Extra Good For Planting Fall Lettuce, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Collards, And Leafy Vegetables. All Aboveground Crops Planted Now Will Do Well. Plant Seedbeds.

Happy Planting!!

Crop Rotation 101

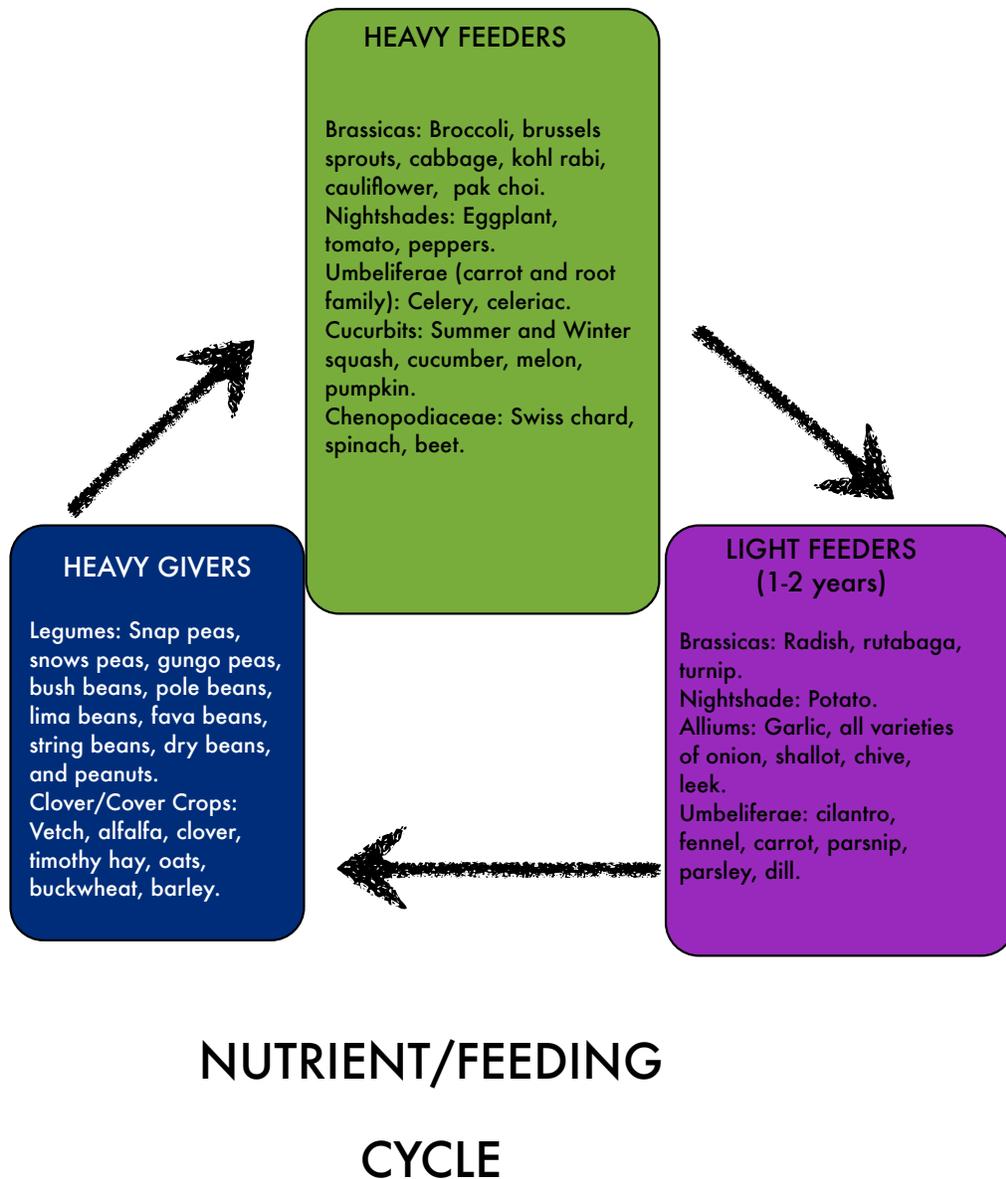
WHAT is CROP ROTATION??

A farm management tool that rotates crops to different fields annually and promotes:

- soil fertility,
- nutrient-rich crops
- larger crops and increased yields
- pest control
- decrease in soil disease

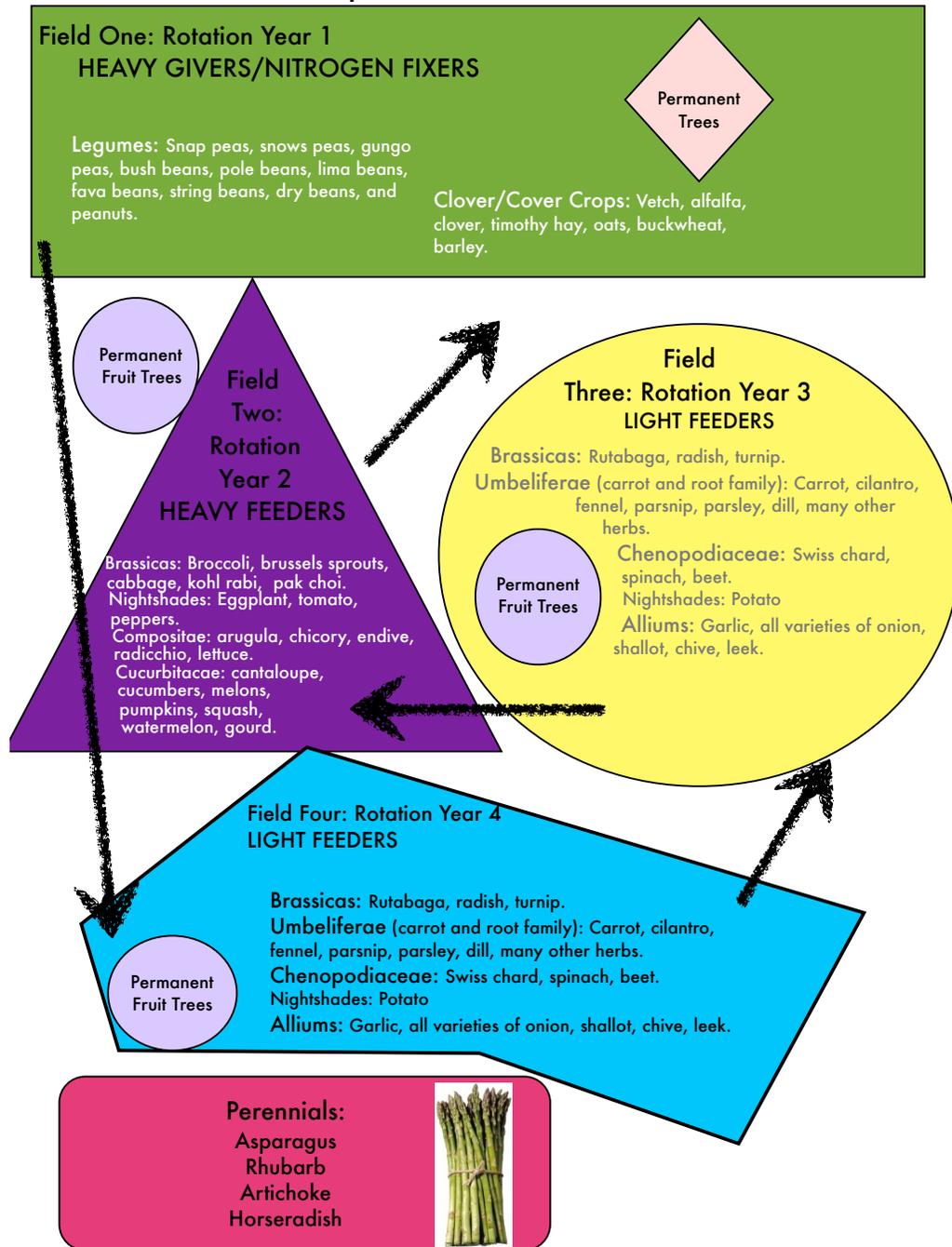
HOW does CROP ROTATION WORK??

Crop rotation is a cycle that is best depicted visually. Each family of crops has its own nutrition and environmental needs. Unfortunately, if we continue to plant a crop in the same spot year after year, the soil health will begin to fail and pests and diseases will soon take over the crop. By planting crops in different areas each year, soil health is amended by the new crops planted there, and the pest/disease cycle is broken. The following diagrams help demonstrate the nutrient cycle of crops and how to successfully reap crops all year long.



Example of A Crop Rotation Year 1

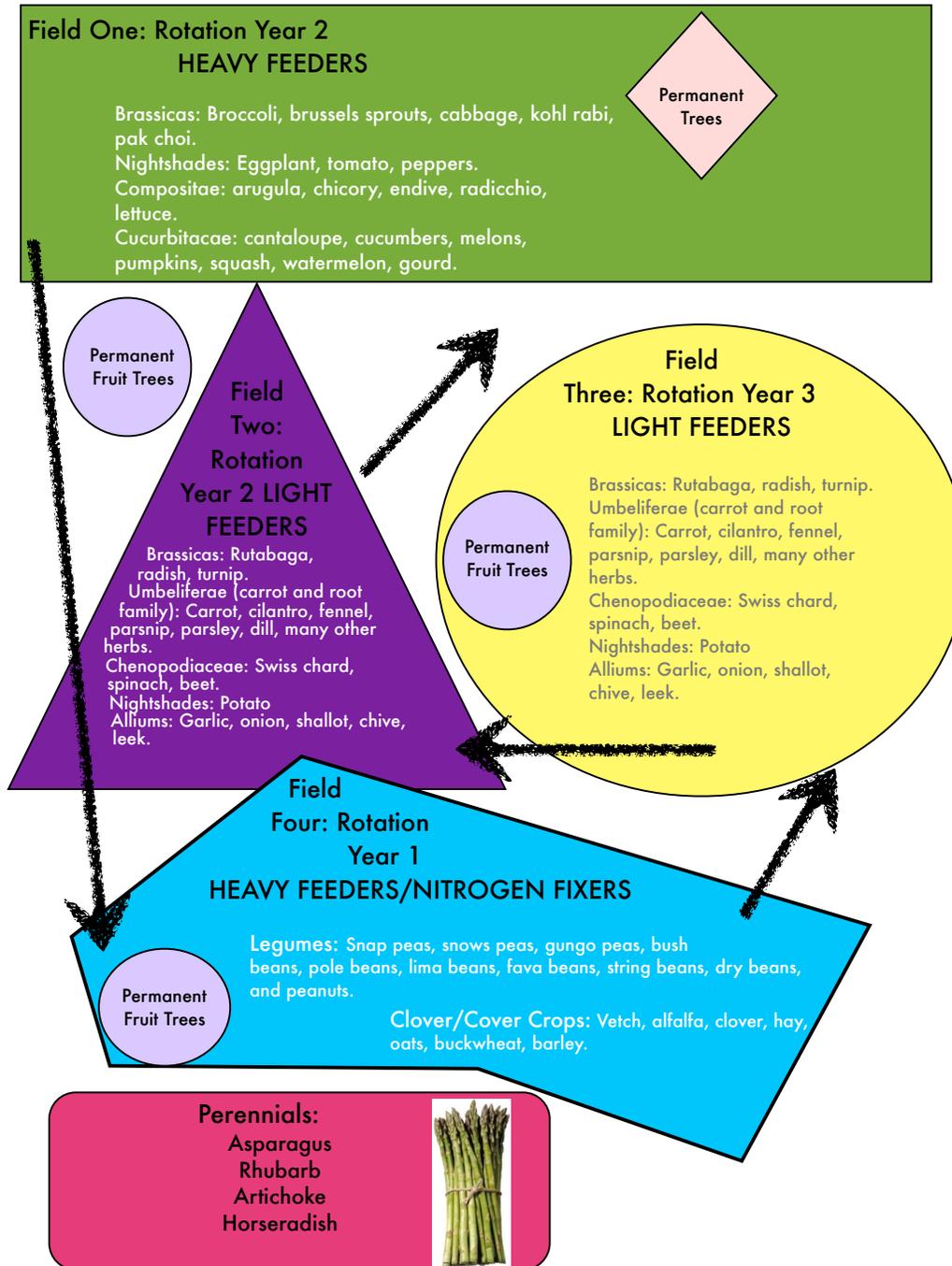
Crop Rotation Plan



Notice in the above crop rotation, 3 different fields are all producing marketable produce, and one is producing a marketable cover crop. Intercropping is still able to occur and will further help your crops—particularly if you use some of your miscellaneous crops such as herbs to act as pest deterrents. Make sure to keep detailed, accurate records of where you are planting different families of crops. This will help you determine what crops to plant in the fields each successive year.

Example of a Crop Rotation Year 2

Crop Rotation Plan



Notice...

In Year 2 of the crop rotation, 3 different fields are all producing marketable produce, and one is producing a marketable cover crop. Even though this rotation is in its second year, there is still produce being reaped.

The crops have rotated:

Heavy Givers–
 Heavy Feeders– 2
 years of Light Feeders
 Feeders.

For the third and fourth years, continue the rotation as the arrows demonstrate.

This ensures that the soil is in the best health for each crop planted in each field year after year.

June Marketing Idea of the Month



Kingston Kitchen is back! SUMMER COOKOUT is the theme!
 Sunday, June 24th 12PM-6PM @ Hope Gardens, Kingston, JA

This is a great way to market your produce and value added products while making invaluable connections. If you are interested in participating contact...

kingstonkitchenja@gmail.com