



Importance of Crop Rotation

June 2, 2010

By Josué Altidor, IPM Coordinator

Crop Rotation Definition:

The practice of alternating the annual crops grown on a specific field in a planned pattern or sequence in successive crop years so that crops of the same species or family are not grown repeatedly without interruption on the same field.

What are the advantages of crop rotations?

- Many crops may have positive effects on succeeding crops in the rotation, leading to greater production overall.
- Rotations are used to reduce pests and diseases in the cropping system and to control weeds.
- Rotations may also give benefits in terms of improved soil quality, better distribution of nutrients in the soil profile, and increased biological activity.
- It's also important to till the soil after the harvesting or to plant 'cover crops'. Cover crops are an excellent source of nitrogen. Why tilling? You till to avoid soil compaction and to make the nutrient more available to the plant. Always remember to use compost as well.
- Improve or restore the soil texture and structure by allowing more filtration and increasing the water-holding capacity.

