

SOYBEAN

Use: Provides both oil and protein for animals and humans

- Soybean belongs to the family of plants known as legumes, as do pulses.
- 2. Soybean works as a natural fertilizer.
- As it grows in the soil, soybean draws nitrogen from the atmosphere to be used as energy to grow. This means it does not need extra nitrogen fertilizer.

WHEAT

Use: Ground into flour or used in animal feed

- Wheat belongs to the family of plants known as grasses, as do other cereal crops like barley and oats.
- 2. Fertilizer is often placed in the soil before a wheat crop, as wheat cannot draw nitrogen from the atmosphere like beans or clover.
- 3. Wheat can be planted at both the start of autumn and the start of spring.



Resource 4 Crop cards



BEANS

Use: High protein food for both humans and animals

- 1. As well as being delicious, beans are an excellent break crop.
- Beans belong to the family of plants known as 'legumes', as do other pulses like peas, lentils and chickpeas.
- 3. Beans do use up soil nutrients while they grow but, as a pulse, they also add nitrogen back into the soil after the plant has been harvested.

OATS

Use: Breakfast cereals and snack bars. Also used as animal feed

- 1. Oats generally require less fertilizer than other crops to grow.
- 2. Oats and other cereal crops like wheat and barley have fibrous root systems that are good at capturing soil nutrients.
- Crops like oats have leaves that quickly create shade which stops small weeds growing.

Teacher Note

An example of a successful crop rotation would be: Year 1 Soybean, Year 2 Wheat, Year 3 Edible Beans, Year 4 Oats