



Why Use Companion Planting?



Natural Pest Control: Certain plants release scents or oils that deter unwanted insects. Others act as trap crops, drawing pests away from your main crops.



Soil Health: Some plants, like legumes, improve soil fertility by fixing nitrogen in the soil. Others shade the soil or act as living mulch.



Pollination Boost: Attract bees, butterflies, and beneficial insects with flowering companions to improve crop pollination and yields.



Efficient Use of Space: Tall plants can provide shade for heat-sensitive crops, while groundcovers reduce weed pressure and evaporation.



Ecosystem Support: A diverse garden supports predatory insects, birds, and microorganisms that keep pest populations in check.

Creating a Balanced Garden

Companion planting supports a natural, holistic approach to gardening. Observing your plants and experimenting with pairings lets you learn what works best in your space. Over time, this method leads to healthier crops, fewer pests, and a more vibrant, biodiverse garden.

Vegetable Companion Planting

Pair vegetables wisely to enhance growth and deter pests:

Carrots & Leeks	This duo protects each other from pests—leeks repel carrot fly, while carrots deter moths.
Celery & Brassicas	The strong scent of celery deters white cabbage butterflies from laying eggs near cabbages and broccoli.
Tomatoes	Thrive with basil, carrots, celery, parsley, and asparagus. These companions enhance flavour, improve pollination, and deter pests like aphids.
Peas & Beans	Legumes fix nitrogen in the soil, enriching it for heavy feeders like brassicas and sweetcorn planted in the following season.
Cucumbers & Nasturtiums	Nasturtiums attract aphids and beetles away from cucumbers, acting as a natural decoy. Avoid planting cucumbers near potatoes, which can compete for space and nutrients.

Flower Companion Planting

Flowers aren't just for looks—they're key to a productive garden:

Marigolds	A top performer for pest control, marigolds repel aphids, whiteflies, and nematodes with their strong scent. They also attract hoverflies, whose larvae feast on soft-bodied pests.
Nasturtiums	Attract pests like whitefly and aphids away from crops. They're especially helpful near lettuce, beans, and tomatoes.
Garlic & Roses	Plant garlic near roses to deter aphids and fungal diseases like black spot.
Lavender & Rosemary	Their aromatic oils deter mosquitoes, flies, and ticks, and attract bees and butterflies.
Pollinator-Friendly Blooms	Include sunflowers, calendula, borage, echinacea, clover, and poppies to draw beneficial insects to your vegetable crops.

Herb Companion Planting

Herbs provide scent, flavour, and functional support in the garden:

Sage	Deters cabbage moths and aphids; attracts bees and beneficial wasps. Ideal near brassicas and celery.
Basil	Enhances tomato flavour and helps deter aphids, fruit flies, and mosquitoes.
Hyssop	Useful around brassicas for deterring cabbage butterflies.
Borage	Great for strawberries—adds trace minerals to the soil and draws in pollinators.
Marjoram & Oregano	Act as general pest repellents. Their tiny flowers attract beneficial insects.
Garlic & Chives	Repel spider mites and aphids; also help prevent fungal problems.



Tips for Companion Planting Success

-  Group plants with similar water, soil, and sun requirements to avoid competition.
-  Rotate crops annually to prevent disease and pest buildup in the soil.
-  Avoid known incompatibilities: For example, don't plant beans near onions or garlic, and avoid pairing potatoes with tomatoes or cucumbers.
-  Use containers for aggressive herbs like mint to stop them from overtaking your garden.
-  Start small: Trial a few combinations in your garden and adjust based on what works well in your local conditions.



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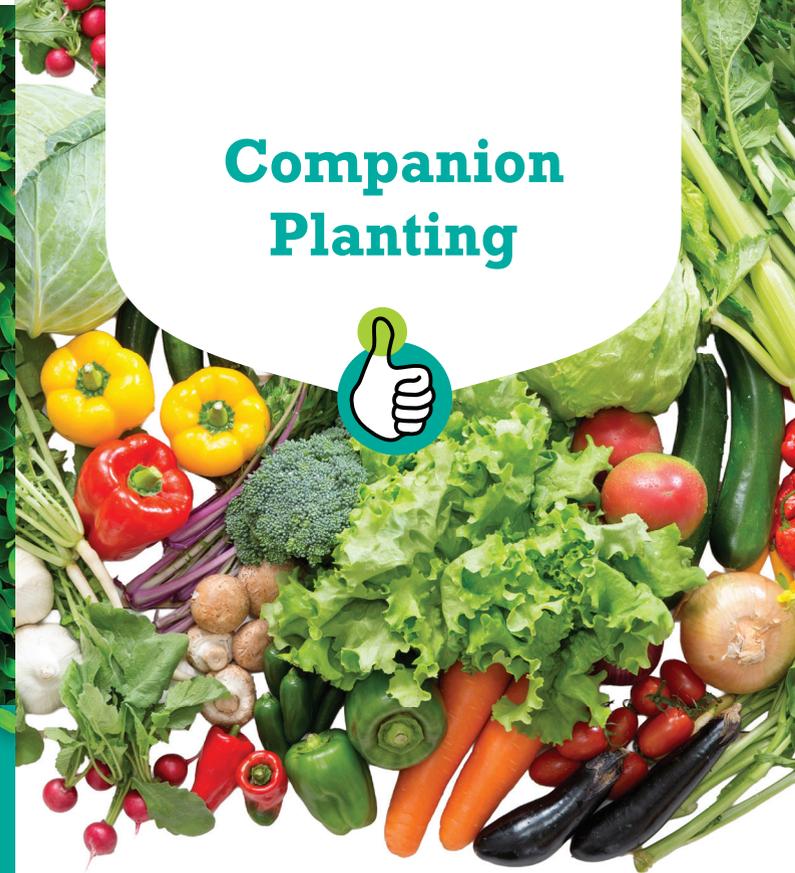
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Companion Planting



Whether you're growing vegetables, herbs, or flowers, companion planting encourages your garden to work as a team—each plant helping the others thrive. It's a satisfying and sustainable way to grow, rewarding your efforts with stronger plants, better harvests, and fewer problems.