

Companion Planting

Companion planting, also known as interplanting, is the intentional planting of two or more plant species close to one another to improve plant growth or repel or suppress pests.

Plants:	Like:	Don't like:
Beans	carrots, cauliflower, beets	onion family
Beets	lettuce, brassicas (cabbage)	
Cabbages	herbs	tomatoes, strawberries
Cucumbers		potatoes
Onions	cabbages, beets, strawberry, tomatoes, lettuce	peas, beans
Tomatoes	onions, carrots	potatoes
Peppers	carrots, eggplant, onions and tomatos	

Consider the following factors when selecting companion plants:

1. Length of the plant's growth period;
2. Its growth pattern (tall, short, below or above ground);
3. Light, nutrient, and moisture requirements; and
4. Planting arrangement, e.g., alternate plants within a row (basil-tomato-basil-tomato); alternate rows within a bed (a row of peppers next to a row of onions) or distribute various species throughout the bed.

Companion planting to increase garden production

- Plant low-growing, shade-tolerant salad greens on the north side of corn, tomato, or eggplant;
- Plant peas at the base of tomato cages (north side) in early spring. Set out tomato transplants into the cages after the last frost. The pea vines will protect the tomato transplants from wind;
- Sow long-season (carrots) and short-season (radishes) seeds at the same time. Harvest the radishes before they begin to crowd the carrots;
- Plant small plants close to larger plants, like radishes at the base of beans or broccoli; and
- Sow cover-crop seeds around the base of crops in late summer/early fall. The cover crop will germinate and establish while you continue to harvest crops.

Companion planting to manage pests

- Trap cropping: Plant a species that is more attractive to a pest than the desired crop. Amaranth is very attractive to cucumber beetles. Plant a small area of amaranth before sowing squash, melon, and cucumber. Cut the amaranth and stuff the plants in a black plastic bag once adult cucumber beetles congregate in large numbers;
- Attract beneficials: Plant crops like buckwheat, garlic chives, anise, hyssop, cilantro, basil, and broccoli raab that produce small flowers highly attractive to pollinators, predators, and parasites of garden pests; and
- Repel and suppress pests: African marigolds make a terrific border because they attract beneficial insects and may repel certain pests through chemical compounds in the foliage and roots.

Resources adapted from: University of Maryland's Master Gardener Handbook and Cornell Cooperative Extension's Companion Planting fact

sheet: <http://counties.cce.cornell.edu/chemung/agriculture/publications/companion-planting.pdf>