



Companion Planting for a Healthy Garden

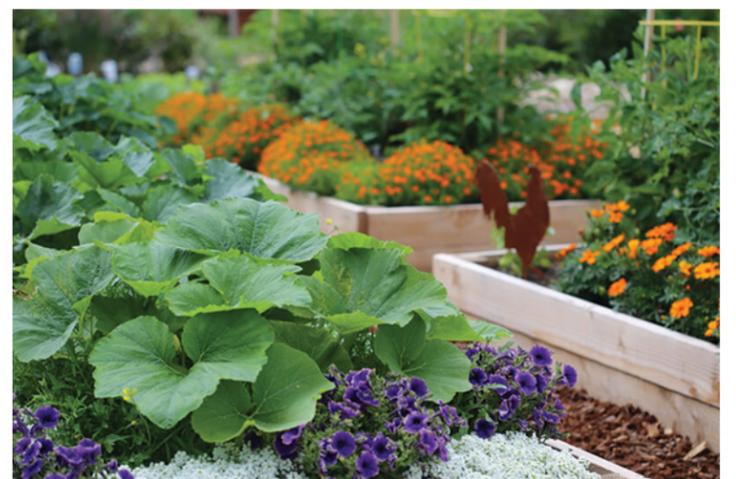
Companion planting is a natural and highly efficient way to get the most out of your gardening efforts. Companion planting not only enhances growth, beauty, and flavor, but it also makes the most of limited space and time. This makes gardening more simple and productive for those with busy schedules. By determining your specific gardening goals, you can choose which plant combinations are right for you. Whether you wish to attract beneficial insects to your garden, maximize weed control, find plants that repel flies, use a natural pesticide or conserve space, here are a few great gardening tips on how to utilize companion planting in your garden.

Insect Control

It might seem counterproductive to invite pests into your garden, but by luring in beneficial insects you are actually practicing one of the oldest and best forms of organic pest control. Beneficial insects such as pollinators like bees, and butterflies as well as predator insects like ladybugs and praying mantis help to pollinate your garden for a bigger harvest and help rid of harmful insects. You can even choose companion plants based on color and odor to keep the overpopulation of pesky pests out of your garden. These natural pesticides provide a chemical free way to maintain your garden. Companion planting offers many options for natural pesticides as well as plants that repel flies.

Weed Control

If you are not a fan of pulling weeds, then consider companion planting as your best all natural go-to remedy. You can plant so that most of what you have to pull from your garden serves a purpose in your growing agenda. Slower-growing, upright plants can be planted alongside companion crops like baby greens, which are more rewarding to pull and eat. Cover crops (also called green manure) suppress weeds, build productive soil, and help control pests and diseases allowing your garden to grow in peace. Bonus, cover crops are easy to plant and require only basic care.



Protection and Support

By choosing your plants wisely you can provide them with the perfect protection and support needed to thrive. Companion planting has been practiced in various forms worldwide due to the environmental benefits of plants supporting each other in function. When planned properly companion plants can provide shade, deter harmful insects, add nutrients to the soil, invite pollinators, provide natural trellising, and maintain moisture. All of which are key factors in maintaining a healthy and happy growing environment.

You may have noticed the cyclical benefits to companion planting. Its nature's time-tested and approved way of providing most everything necessary for maximum gardening productivity. With a little preplanning and our helpful gardening tips, you too can utilize nature's natural defenses to create a thriving garden environment that is relatively easy to maintain.