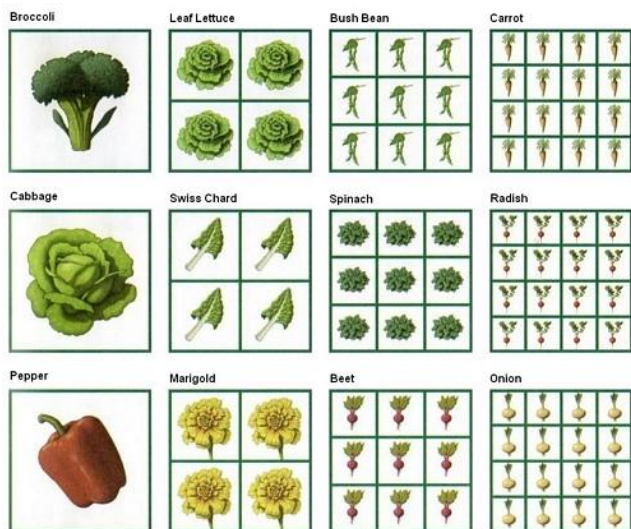




Companion Plants

Number 0025

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Catch crops

In agriculture, a catch crop is a fast-growing crop that is grown simultaneously with, or between successive plantings of a main crop.

Carrots

Intercropping carrots with onions reduces carrot fly attacks; leeks and salsify have also been used with some success. Mixing with seeds of annual flowers also seems to discourage carrot fly. Carrots grow well with lettuce, radishes, and tomatoes, and encourage peas to grow. They dislike anise and dill. If left to flower, carrots attract hoverflies and other beneficial predatory insects to the garden.

Beets

Beets flourish in the company of kohlrabi, carrots, cucumber, lettuce, onions, brassicas and most beans (not string beans). Dill or fennel planted nearby attracts predators. Because they combine well with so many other crops and small roots mature with 9-13 weeks, beets are good for intercropping and useful catch-crops

Turnips

Growing with peas deters aphids. Turnips are useful for intercropping between taller crops and for catch-cropping

Peas

Peas grow well with other legumes, root crops, potatoes, cucurbits, and corn.

Beans

A traditional trio – corn, beans and squash or pumpkins are great companions.

Squash, Pumpkin, Zucchini, Marrow

Grow zucchini and marrow alongside corn for support and shade and with legumes which provide essential nitrogen

Lettuce

Lettuce grows well with cucumbers, onions, radishes and carrots. Dill and chervil protect them from aphids.

Garlic

Planted beside rose bushes, garlic controls greenfly. Good companions are lettuce, beet, summer savory, Swiss chard and strawberries. It should not be planted with peas and beans.

Onion

Parsley sown with onions is said to keep onion fly away. Parsnips
Sow rapidly germinating radish and lettuces between rows. Parsnips grow well alongside peas and lettuce, providing they are not in the shade. Plant next to carrots and leave a few to flower the following year as they attract beneficial insects

Potatoes

Growing horseradish in large sunken pots near potatoes controls some disease. Plant with corn, cabbage, beans and marigolds. Grow with eggplants, which are a greater attraction to Colorado potato beetle. Protect against scab by putting grass clippings and comfrey leaves in the planting hole or trench.

Asparagus

Where growing conditions allow, asparagus is compatible with tomatoes, parsley and basil.

Tomatoes

Grow with French marigolds to deter whitefly. Tomatoes grow well with basil, parsley, alliums, nasturtiums and asparagus

Broccoli

Plant with rosemary, thyme, sage, onions, garlic, beets and chards.

Brussels sprouts

When planted among maturing onions, sprouts benefit from their root residues and the firm soil

Cabbage

Cabbage thrives in the company of herbs like dill, mints, rosemary, sage, thyme and chamomile. They also grow well with many other vegetables including onions, garlic, peas, celery, potatoes, fava beans and beets. Like all brassicas, they benefit from the nitrogen left in the soil after legumes have been grown.

Cauliflower

Plant with rosemary, thyme, sage, onions, garlic, beets and chards.

Corn

A traditional trio – corn, beans and squash or pumpkins are great companions

Eggplant

Eggplants flourish alongside thyme, tarragon and peas.

Peppers

The capsicum family grows well with basil, okra and tomatoes

Radish

Radishes grow well with chervil, peas and lettuce and thrive with nasturtium and mustard. Because of their rapid growth, radishes make an excellent “indicator crop.” Sown

in the same row as slow-germinating crops like parsnips or parsley they mark where the main crop has been sown, make weeding easier and can be harvested without disturbing the developing plants.

Rhubarb

Rhubarb is reported to control red spider mite. A traditional remedy suggests putting rhubarb in planting holes to control clubroot. An infusion of leaves is effective as an aphicide and to check blackspot on roses.

Rutabaga

They grow well with peas

Spinach

Good with beans, peas, corn and strawberries

Swiss Chard

They grow well with all beans except string beans and flourish with brassicas, onions and lettuce. Herbs like sage, thyme, mint, dill, hyssop, rosemary and garlic are also compatible.

Pumpkins

see Squash