

Companion Planting

Companion plants are used to encourage the growth of plants, to confuse or repel pests and to act as traps or sacrificial plants. They may also be used to attract predators and pollinators.



Nasturtiums attract caterpillars

Stemming from folklore and often treated with scepticism and lacking in scientific evidence, there's no denying that many plants can and do have an effect on each other, as well as encouraging a diverse range of insects – for better or worse in some instances.

Some plants are more beneficial when they're grown together – others don't work at all well.

The following lists a variety of plants and herbs that grow well together, as well as some that don't. Also included is a list of plants that encourage or repel insects. It's not exhaustive and you may like to add your own companions as you find them.

Plant	Helps	Avoid
Alliums	Fruit trees, tomatoes/potatoes, brassicas, carrots	Beans, peas, parsley
Basil	Tomatoes, peppers	Sage, common rue
Beans	Corn, spinach, lettuce, rosemary, summer savoury, dill, carrots, brassicas, beets, radish, strawberry, cucumbers	Tomatoes, peppers, alliums, kales, sunflowers
Beets	Lettuce, kohlrabi, onions, brassicas	Runner beans
Borage	Almost everything! Especially strawberries, tomatoes	
Brassica		Mustards, potato/tomato crops
Carrots	Tomatoes, alliums	Dill, parsnip, radish
Chives	Apples, carrots, tomatoes, brassica	Beans, peas
Fennel	Dill	Almost everything!
Peppermint	Brassica	
Rosemary	Sage, cabbage, beans, carrots	
Nasturtium	Melons, cucumbers, beans, tomatoes, apple trees, brassica, radish	Cauliflower

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Plant	Bugs that are repelled or encouraged
Alliums	Repels slugs, aphids, carrot fly, cabbage worms
Basil	Sacrificial plant for aphids, attracts butterflies, repels mosquitoes
Borage	Encourages pollinators & predatory insects good source of phosphorous
Carrots	Attracts lacewing, parasitic wasp, predatory wasps
Chamomile	Attracts hoverflies & wasps
Chervil	Deters flea beetle & makes radish less hot
Chives	Deters scab, aphids, deter carrot root fly
Coriander	Encourages hoverflies & bees, ladybirds, repels aphids
Dead nettles	Encourages shrews, frogs & beetles
Dill	Encourages hoverflies, wasps, worms & honeybees, ladybirds, repels aphids, spider mites
French marigolds (<i>Tagetes</i>)	Discourages whitefly
Garlic	Discourages black spot & mildew, deters aphids, beetles, spider mites, ants & rabbits
Lavender	Repels ants, attracts hoverflies & bees
Legumes	Fix nitrogen
Mexican marigold (<i>Tagetes minuta</i>)	Repels eelworms
Mustard	Sacrificial plant when planted near brassicas
Nasturtiums, orange	Deters aphids, whiteflies, cucumber beetles
Nasturtiums, yellow	Attracts predatory insects
Onion	Repels aphids, carrot fly
Oregano	Repels cabbage butterfly
Parsley	Repels carrot fly
Peppermint	Repels ants
Poached egg plant	Encourages hoverflies
Pot Marigold (<i>Calendula Officinalis</i>)	Encourages hoverflies, repels nematodes (& dogs from cocking legs!)
Rosemary	Repels cabbage moths, slugs, carrot fly, insects
Savory	Protects broad beans from black aphids, deters onion fly
Sunflower	Repels aphids
Sweet peas	Attracts pollinators
Tansy	Repels cabbage worms, ants, flies, cucumber beetles
Thyme	Repels cabbage worms, flea beetle, cabbage root fly
Tomatoes	Discourages couch grass, repels asparagus beetle
Valerian	Encourages earthworms
Wormwood	Deters cabbage caterpillars, flea beetles
Yarrow	Encourages earthworms