

# Companion Planting With Herbs

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# Companion Planting

Locating plants close to each other to take advantage of each one's natural ability to attract beneficial insects, repel harmful ones, aid or discourage growth, and produce certain chemical interactions.

For example, the roots of one plant can release chemicals into the soil that can benefit the health of plants nearby.



# Basil (*Ocimum varieties*)

- **Complementary with:** Tomatoes (improves growth and flavor)
- **Do NOT plant with:** Rue
- **Deters:** Thrips, mosquitoes, flies



# Bay Laurel (*Laurus nobilis*)

- **Complementary with:** Beans and grains
- **Deters:** Weevils and moths (caution: will also deter ladybugs!)
- **Other benefits:** Sprinkle dried leaves with other herbs as a natural insecticide dust: bay, cayenne pepper, tansy, and peppermint



# Borage (*Borago officinalis*)

- **Complementary to:** Strawberries (improves flavor), tomatoes, squash, and most plants, helping to increase resistance to pests and disease
- **Deters:** Tomato hornworms and cabbage worms
- **Attracts:** Bees and beneficial wasps
- **Also adds:** Trace minerals to the soil, good addition to the compost pile (leaves have vitamin C and are rich in calcium, potassium, and mineral salts)



# Calendula (*Calendula officinalis*)

- **Complementary with:** Plant throughout the garden, because it works as a general pest deterrent!
- **Deters:** Bad nematodes, Mexican bean beetles, many insects



# Chamomile (*Matricaria recutita*)

- **Complementary with:** Cabbage, cucumber, and onions, almost anything!
- **Attracts:** Hoverflies, predatory wasps
- **Other benefits:** Accumulates calcium, potassium, and sulfur, later returning them to the soil. Increases oil production of other herbs.



# Chervil (*Anthriscus cerefolium*)

- **Complementary with:** Radishes (makes them hotter and crisper), cilantro/coriander, dill
- **Deters:** Slugs; keeps aphids off of lettuce





# Chives (*Allium varieties*)

- **Complementary with:** Carrots, tomatoes, roses, apples, parsley
- **Deters:** Japanese beetles, carrot rust fly, keeps aphids away from tomatoes, mums, and sunflowers
- **Other benefits:**
  - Planted among apple trees, helps prevent scab
  - Among roses, helps prevent black spot (takes 3 years before this will work)
  - Chive tea can be used on cucumbers and gooseberries to prevent downy and powdery mildews.



# Cilantro/Coriander (*Coriandrum sativum*)

- **Complementary with:** Anise, chervil
- **Deters:** aphids, spider mites, potato beetle
- **Other benefits:** A tea from this can be used as a spray for spider mites



# Dill (*Anethum graveolens*)

- **Complementary with:** Cabbage, lettuce, onions, sweet corn, cucumbers, chervil, fennel (though they can cross-pollinate)
- **Keep away from:** Carrots, caraway, tomatoes (only because it attracts the tomato horn worm)
- **Repels:** Squash bug, aphids, spider mites
- **Attracts:** Hoverflies, predatory wasps, swallowtail butterfly caterpillars



# Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*)

\*\*\*Most plants do not like to grow near this herb!  
It's better off by itself, or in a pot!\*\*\*

**Deters:** Fleas

**Attracts:** Hoverflies, predatory wasps, swallowtail  
butterfly caterpillars



# Lavender (*Lavender augustifolia (officinalis)*)

- **Complementary with:** Many plants
- **Deters:** Fleas, moths, rabbits, mice, ticks, mosquitoes
- **Attracts:** Bees, butterflies, other beneficials
- **Other benefits:** Combine with wormwood and rosemary in an anti-moth sachet



# Lemon Balm (*Melissa officinalis*)

- **Complementary with:** Cucumbers, tomatoes
- **Deters:** Squash bugs
- **Other benefits:** Has citronella compounds; crushed leaves work somewhat as a mosquito deterrent



# Lemongrass (*Cymbopogon citratus*)

- **Complementary with:** Many plants
- **Best benefit:** Creates a great mulch, providing nutrients to the soil



# Lemon Verbena (*Aloysia triphylla*)

- **Complementary with:** Most plants
- **Deters:** Midgits, fleas, and other pests





# Lovage (*Levisticum officinale*)

- **Complementary with:** Improves flavor and health of most plants, particularly beans and sweet peppers



# Marjoram (*Origanum majorana*)

- **Complementary with:** Improves flavor of most vegetables and herbs planted nearby, particularly sweet peppers and sage; acts a “physician plant” with most



# Mints (*Mentha varieties*)

- **Complementary with:** Tomatoes, cabbage
- **Deters:** White cabbage moths, ants, rodents, flea beetles, fleas, aphids
- **Attracts:** Bees, hoverflies, predatory wasps, earthworms
- **Other benefits:** Placing mint (fresh or dried) where mice are a problem is effective in driving them off



# Oregano, Greek (*Origanum vulgare hirtum*)

- **Complementary with:** Cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, cucumber, grapes; acts as a “physician plant” with many
- **Deters:** Cabbage butterfly and cucumber beetle



# Parsley (*Petroselinum crispum*)

- **Complementary with:** Chives, tomatoes, carrots, roses (increases fragrance), asparagus
- **Deters:** Asparagus beetles
- **Attracts:** Hoverflies, parasitic wasps



# Rosemary (*Rosemarinus officinalis*)

- **Complementary with:** Cabbage, beans, carrots, sage
- **Do NOT plant near:** Potatoes
- **Deters:** Cabbage moths, bean beetles, carrot flies



# Sage (*Salvia varieties*)

- **Complementary with:** Rosemary, cabbage, carrots, broccoli, cauliflower
- **Do NOT plant near:** Cucumbers, onions, rue
- **Deters:** Cabbage moths, beetles, black flea beetles, carrot flies
- **Attracts:** Beneficial insects (flowers)



# Salad Burnet (*Poterium sanguisorba*)

- **Complementary with:** Thyme, mints





# Savory (*Satureja varieties*)

- **Complementary with:** Beans, onions
- **Deters:** Bean beetles, cabbage moths, black aphids
- **Attracts:** Honey bees



# Tarragon (*Artemisia dracunculus*)

- Plant throughout garden, as most pests don't like it!



# Thyme (*Thymus varieties*)

- **Complementary with:** Cabbage; acts as a “physician plant” with most
- **Deters:** Cabbage worm
- **Attracts:** Bees (flowers)



# Wormwood (*Artemisia absinthium*)

- **Main use:** Plant as a border to the garden to keep animals (namely DEER) out
- **Warning:** The leaves and roots exude a substance that inhibits the growth of thyme, mints, and other herbs, so leave at least a 3-foot buffer when planting. Also, since the plant actually produces a botanical poison, do not spray on food plants!
- **Deters:** Most animals (deer, rodents), most insects (including cabbage moths, slugs, snails, black flea beetles and fleas)
- **Attracts:** Ladybugs (Powis Castle variety)



Questions?



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# Companion Planting Resources

National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service:

<http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/complant.html>

Cunningham, Sally Jean: ***Great Garden Companions: A Companion-Planting System for a Beautiful, Chemical-Free Vegetable Garden***, 2000.

Flowerdew, Bob: ***Bob Flowerdew's Complete Book of Companion Gardening***, 1995.



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