

Companion Planting Guide for Gardeners and Homesteaders

Companion planting is the art of strategically pairing plants that thrive together, turning your garden into a self-sustaining ecosystem. By selecting "friends" that deter pests, enhance soil nutrients, attract pollinators, or provide shade and support, you can boost yields, reduce chemical use, and minimize diseases—all while saving space in your veggie patch.

almanac.com It's especially beginner-friendly: start with a few proven combos like the "Three Sisters" (corn, beans, squash) for mutual support—beans fix nitrogen for corn, squash shades weeds, and corn acts as a trellis.

burpee.com Why It Works: Key Benefits

- **Pest Control:** Plants like marigolds release compounds that repel nematodes and beetles, acting as natural barriers.

gilmour.com **Nutrient Boost:** Legumes (beans, peas) fix atmospheric nitrogen, enriching soil for heavy feeders like corn or tomatoes.

farmersalmanac.com **Pollinator Attraction:** Flowers such as nasturtiums draw bees and beneficial insects, improving pollination and yields.

almanac.com **Space Efficiency:** Interplant quick growers (radishes) with slower ones (carrots) to maximize your plot.

burpee.com **Flavor Enhancement:** Herbs like basil can subtly improve the taste of nearby tomatoes.

gilmour.com **Pro Tip:** Observe your garden—local conditions like soil type or climate may tweak these pairings. Plant companions from the start for best results, and rotate crops yearly to prevent soil depletion.

Companion Planting Chart

This chart compiles evidence-based pairings for 15 common vegetables, drawing from trusted sources. "Friends" enhance growth; "Foes" compete for resources or attract shared pests/diseases—avoid planting them nearby. Include herbs and flowers for extra benefits.

Vegetable	Good Companions (Friends)	Plants to Avoid (Foes)	Notes & Benefits
Asparagus	Basil, Parsley, Tomatoes, Marigolds	Garlic, Onions, Potatoes	Marigolds deter beetles; basil boosts vigor. Perennial crop—plant once for years of harvest. gilmour.com
Beans (Bush/Pole)	Beets, Carrots, Corn, Cucumbers, Potatoes, Radishes, Strawberries, Celery, Chard	Garlic, Onions, Fennel	Nitrogen-fixers; pair with corn for "Three Sisters." Nasturtiums trap beetles. burpee.com
Beets	Bush Beans, Cabbage Family (Broccoli, etc.), Lettuce, Onions, Spinach	Pole Beans, Chard, Spinach (same family)	Onions enhance flavor; bush beans add nitrogen without competition. farmersalmanac.com
Broccoli (Brassicas)	Beets, Celery, Dill, Garlic, Lettuce, Marigolds, Nasturtiums, Oregano, Potatoes, Sage, Thyme	Tomatoes, Peppers, Strawberries, Corn, Climbing Beans	Dill attracts wasps for pest control; chamomile improves flavor. almanac.com
Carrots	Beans, Chives, Leeks, Lettuce, Onions, Peas, Peppers, Radishes, Rosemary, Tomatoes	Dill, Parsnips	Onions repel carrot flies; chives boost flavor. Interplant with radishes for quick weed suppression. farmersalmanac.com

Corn	Beans, Cucumbers, Melons, Peas, Potatoes, Pumpkins, Squash, Sunflowers	Tomatoes, Celery	Beans climb for support and add nitrogen; sunflowers attract ladybugs. almanac.com
Cucumbers	Beans, Corn, Dill, Lettuce, Nasturtiums, Oregano, Peas, Radishes, Sunflowers	Sage, Potatoes, Aromatic Herbs (strong scents)	Nasturtiums act as trap crops for beetles; corn provides shade. burpee.com
Lettuce	Beets, Carrots, Chives, Garlic, Onions, Peas, Radishes, Strawberries, Spinach	Brassicas (in excess), Parsley	Chives deter aphids; peas provide light shade in heat. gilmour.com
Onions	Beets, Cabbage, Carrots, Chard, Lettuce, Peppers, Strawberries, Tomatoes	Beans, Peas, Asparagus	Chamomile enhances growth; repels many pests in return. burpee.com
Peas	Beans, Carrots, Corn, Cucumbers, Lettuce, Mint, Radishes, Spinach, Turnips	Garlic, Onions	Mint improves health; plant early for cool-season shade. farmersalmanac.com
Peppers	Basil, Carrots, Eggplant, Onions, Oregano, Tomatoes	Beans, Brassicas, Fennel	Basil repels aphids; similar needs to tomatoes for easy pairing. almanac.com

Potatoes	Beans, Cabbage, Corn, Horseradish, Marigolds, Peas	Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Raspberries, Sunflowers	Horseradish deters beetles; marigolds fight nematodes. gilmour.com
Pumpkins/Winter Squash	Beans, Corn, Lovage, Marigolds, Nasturtiums, Radishes	Potatoes, Root Crops	Borage attracts pollinators; ideal for "Three Sisters" mounds. almanac.com
Radishes	Beans, Carrots, Cucumbers, Lettuce, Peas, Spinach, Squash	Hyssop, Brassicas (in excess)	Trap crop for flea beetles; quick harvest loosens soil for carrots. burpee.com
Tomatoes	Asparagus, Basil, Carrots, Celery, Marigolds, Onions, Parsley, Peppers	Corn, Potatoes, Dill (mature), Fennel, Kohlrabi	Basil improves flavor and repels hornworms; marigolds deter whiteflies. almanac.com
Zucchini/Summer Squash	Beans, Corn, Dill, Marigolds, Nasturtiums, Peas, Radishes	Potatoes, Pumpkins	Oregano as natural insecticide; nasturtiums repel squash bugs. almanac.com

Implementation Tips for Beginners

1. Start Small: Dedicate one bed to a simple trio like tomatoes-basil-marigolds. Space plants per seed packet guidelines to avoid overcrowding.

[almanac.com](https://www.almanac.com) Incorporate Flowers & Herbs: Marigolds and nasturtiums are "universal helpers"—plant borders around your plot.

[burpee.com](#) Timing Matters: Sow fast companions (radishes) first to break soil, then add slower ones (tomatoes).

[farmersalmanac.com](#) Common Pitfalls: Strong-scented foes like onions stunt legumes—keep them separate by at least 2-3 feet. Watch for shared diseases (e.g., blight in tomatoes/potatoes).

[gilmour.com](#) Scale for Homesteads: Use polycultures in larger plots—mix brassicas with alliums for pest confusion. Track results in a journal to refine next season.

Companion planting isn't magic, but it's science-backed synergy that makes gardening easier and more productive.

[almanac.com](#) Experiment, observe, and enjoy the harvest—your veggies will thank you with abundance! For more, explore local extension services or apps like Garden Planner.