



*Magic Garden Nursery & Landscape  
7909 E 22<sup>nd</sup> Street Tucson, AZ 85710  
(520) 885-7466  
[www.magicgardennursery.com](http://www.magicgardennursery.com)*

### **Fall Companion Gardening for Tucson and Surrounding Areas**

*By Tony Sarah, Horticulturist*

Companion planting is the practice of planting mutually beneficial plants together to benefit your garden in a number of different ways. Certain plants provide nutrients or fix nitrogen in the ground, making it available to other plants. Others repel insect or animal pests, nematodes, or soil borne pathogens. Host plants attract beneficial insects, pollinators, or other organisms which benefit plants (such as ladybugs, bees, or beneficial nematodes). Some plants, especially herbs, can subtly change or enhance the flavor of other plants around them. While this is an exhaustive subject that warrants more comprehensive coverage, we have put together an abridged list of plants and the benefits or drawbacks of planting them together. This list is designed to cover plants suitable for fall gardens.

**Allium** (Onion Family) repels aphids, powdery mildew and black spot. Alliums grow well with roses, which are susceptible to these plant problems.

**Alyssum** attracts Syrphid flies, which eat thrips and aphids.

**Asparagus** grows well with parsley. Asparagus does not grow well with onions or garlic.

**Beets** grow well with garlic, onions, lettuce, brassicas (cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, mustard, etc.), and kohlrabi. Garlic improves growth and flavor. Beets are also good for adding minerals to the soil.

**Borage** grows well with strawberries and fruit trees. Attracts bees and repels tomato hornworm and cabbage worm. Borage also supplies calcium, potassium and other minerals to the soil.

**Broccoli** grows well with dill, rosemary, sage, peppermint and oregano. Also beets, celery and onions. Do not plant with strawberries.

**Cabbage** grows well with chamomile, dill, garlic, mint, oregano, thyme, hyssop, etc. Wormwood helps to repel cabbage white butterflies. Plant with vegetables such as beets, celery, chard, spinach. Does not grow well with grapes, strawberries or rue.

**Caraway** planted throughout the garden helps to loosen up the soil. Do not plant near dill or fennel.

**Carrots** grow well with lettuce, peas, radishes and anything in the onion family. Chives improve growth and flavor. Rosemary and sage help repel carrot fly. Does not grow well with dill. Carrots also attract the following beneficial insects: lacewings, assassin bugs, big-eyed bugs and parasitic wasps. Carrots release a fluid into the soil that is beneficial to the growth of peas.

**Cauliflower** grows well with celery as celery repels the white cabbage butterfly. Do not plant with strawberries.

**Celery** grows well with spinach, cauliflower, cabbage, and leeks.

**Chamomile** grows well with onions, basil and cabbage.

**Chives** grow well with carrots, improving growth and flavor.

**Cilantro** (aka Coriander) grows well with spinach and helps to repel aphids. When left to go to flower, it attracts bees to the garden. Do not plant near fennel.

**Dill** improves growth and vigor of cabbage. Dill grows well with onions and lettuce, but will stunt the growth of carrots.

**Fennel** doesn't really grow well with any other plants, and actually inhibits the growth of many plants such as kohlrabi and caraway.

**Garlic** is a wonderful companion to roses, helping to prevent black spot, powdery mildew and aphids. If you plant garlic (or any member of the Alliums) around fruit trees, preferably at the same time you're planting the tree, you can help prevent fruit tree borers. It may take up to 3 years to show the benefits of garlic around your trees.

**Hyssop** grows well with grapevines, increasing fruit production. Hyssop also grows well with cabbage, as the white cabbage butterfly prefers hyssop. Inhibits the growth of radishes. Do not plant with rhubarb.

**Kale** grows well with cabbage and peas.

**Kohlrabi** grows well with onions and beets. Do not plant with strawberries.

**Leeks** grow well with grow well with carrots, celery and onions.

**Lettuce** grows well with strawberries, onions, carrots and radishes.

**Lovage** grows well with, and improves the flavor of, most plants.

**Marjoram** grows well with other plants and helps to improve growth and flavor.

**Mint** grows well with cabbage, repelling the white cabbage butterfly.

**Onions** grow well with cabbage, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower, etc. (Brassica family). Onions also grow well with strawberries, lettuce and beets. Do not plant with peas.

**Oregano** grows well with Brassicas (broccoli, cabbage, etc.) to help repel the white cabbage butterfly.

**Peas** grow well with carrots, radishes, turnips and most herbs. Do not plant with onions or garlic. Peas are wonderful for fixing nitrogen in the soil (taking nitrogen from the air and change it into nitrogen in the soil, making it available to other plants).

**Peppermint** grows well with broccoli, cabbage, etc., helping to repel the white cabbage butterfly.

**Rosemary** grows well with sage, cabbage and carrots.

**Rue** grows well with roses, helping to repel Japanese beetles. Do not plant it with basil.

**Sage** grows well with cabbage, repelling the white cabbage butterfly. Sage also grows well with carrots and rosemary. Do not plant with cucumber.

**Shallots** (Allium species) grow well with the cabbage family and most fall vegetables. Do not plant with peas.

**Spinach** grows well with strawberries, the cabbage family, celery, fava beans and peas.

**Thyme** grows well with most vegetables, and repels the white cabbage butterfly.

**Yarrow** improves soil quality and helps other garden plants to be more resistant to pests and disease. Grows well with most plants.

This list is by no means complete, and we've tried not to include herbs or vegetables that will not succeed in our area in the winter. We did include comments on basil on the list, as you may have planted it in early fall to harvest before the first frost and we don't want you to plant incompatibles with it.