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Warm Season Companion Gardening for Tucson and Surrounding Areas

© By Anthony 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 lady beetles, bees, butterflies or beneficial nematodes). Trap crops are a form of host plant in that they attract harmful pests, be they insect or animal, away from desirable plants. Some plants, especially herbs, can subtly change or enhance the flavor of other plants around them.

**African Marigolds:** Plant with Basil, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Gourds, Potatoes, Squash, Tomato

Avoid: Beans

Comments: Plant with the garden to help discourage beetles, beet leaf hoppers, Mexican bean beetle and nematodes. The roots of French Marigolds act as a natural pesticide in the soil and may retain their effectiveness in the soil long after the plant has been removed. Mexican Mint Marigold release this natural pesticide in the soil so heavily that it may adversely effect more tender herbs. In addition, Mexican Mint Marigold deters rabbits.

Note: Marigolds have been known to attract spider mites and slugs.

**Amaranth:** Plant with Corn, Onion, Potato, Strawberry, Tomato

Avoid None known

Comments: Helps to draw up nutrients from the subsoil.

**Anise:** Plant with Beans

Avoid Basil, Carrot, Rue

**Artichoke:** Plant with Asparagus, Corn, Sunflower, Tarragon

Avoid Potato

**Asparagus:** Plant with Basil, Comfrey, Marigold, Parsley, Strawberry, Tomato

Avoid Chives, Garlic, Onion, Potato, Shallots

**Basil:** Plant with Asparagus, Marigold, Oregano, Pepper, Tomato

Avoid Rosemary, Rue, Sage

Comments: Opal Basil helps to repel Tomato Hornworm. Lemon and Lime Basil help to deter mosquitoes. Basil also helps to repel aphids, flies, mice and mites.

**Bell Peppers:** Plant with Basil, Lovage, Marjoram, Okra, Oregano  
Avoid Apricot trees.

**Bush Beans:** Plant with Cucumbers, Marigold, Strawberries  
Avoid Chives, Fennel, Garlic, Onion, Shallots

**Pole Beans:** Catnip, Corn, Marigold, Oregano, Potato, Rosemary, Summer Savory,  
Squash  
Avoid Chives, Fennel, Garlic, Onion, Sunflower, Shallots

**Burnet:** Plant with Mint, Thyme  
Avoid none known

**Catnip:** Plant with Eggplant, Hyssop, Pumpkin, Squash  
Avoid none known.

**Chives:** Apples, Grapes, Parsley, Roses, Tomato  
Avoid Asparagus, Beans, Parsley  
Comments: Chives help to prevent black spot on roses which may take 2-3 years to have any effect. In addition chives help to repel aphids and apple scab. Chives also give Carrots better flavor.

**Chrysanthemum:** Plant with various plants  
Avoid none known.  
Comments: Chrysanthemum coccineum is what Pyrethrum is derived from as a natural insecticide. Also helps to repel nematodes.

**Comfrey:** Plant with Asparagus, Avocado trees  
Avoid none known.

**Corn:** Plant with Alfalfa, Amaranth, Beans, Cucumber, Lamb's Quarters, Melon,  
Parsley, Potato, Pumpkin, Squash, Sunflower.  
Avoid Tomato

**Cucumber:** Plant with Beans, Catnip, Chives, Corn, Eggplant, Marigold, Oregano,  
Savory, Sunflower

**Cucumber:** Avoid Aromatic herbs, Potato  
Comments: Planting Icicle Radish or Nasturtium around the base of the plants helps to repel cucumber beetle and squash bugs.

**Cumin:** Plant with Cucumber, Potato  
Avoid none known,  
Comments: The flowers attract many beneficial insects especially parasitic wasps and predatory flies.

**Eggplant:** Plant with Amaranth, Beans, Hot Pepper, Marigold, Potato, Tarragon, Thyme  
Avoid none known.

**Horseradish:** Plant with Potato  
Avoid none known  
Comments: Repels Potato beetle and blister beetle.

**Hot Pepper:** Plant with Basil, Catnip. Cucumber, Eggplant, Geranium, Lovage, Marjoram, Okra, Oregano, Rosemary, Tomato  
Avoid none known.

**Hyssop:** Plant with Grape vines  
Avoid Radish.  
Comments: Helps to repel Cabbage moth and flea beetles. Attracts Bees.

**Lavender:** Plant with fruit trees and roses  
Avoid Rhubarb.  
Comments: Helps to repel fleas and moths while discouraging mice and ticks.

**Lemon Balm:** Plant throughout the garden.  
Avoid none known.  
Comments: Repels Squash bugs.

**Lovage:** Plant throughout the garden.  
Avoid Celery, Rhubarb.  
Comments: Helps to improve the flavor and health of most plants.

**Melons:** Plant with Corn, Marigold, Oregano, Potato, Sunflower  
Avoid none known.

**Mint:** Plant with Tomato  
Avoid none known.  
Comments: Mint is extremely invasive so be careful where you plant it.

**Oregano:** Plant with Cucumber, Grape, Squash  
Avoid none known.  
Comments: Helps to repel the Cabbage butterfly and Cucumber beetle.

**Parsley:** Plant with Asparagus, Bell Peppers, Chives, Tomato  
Avoid Mint.

**Peanut:** Plant with Corn, Squash, Watermelon  
**Peanut:** Avoid none known.

**Potato:** Plant with Amaranth, Bush Beans, Catnip, Corn, Eggplant, Horseradish, Marigold  
Avoid Cucumber, Pumpkin, Raspberry, Squash, Sunflower, Tomato

**Pumpkin:** Plant with Corn, Marigold Oregano, Squash  
Avoid Apple, Potato, Raspberry, Rosemary, Tomato

**Rosemary:** Plant with Beans, Sage  
Avoid Basil, Potatoes

**Rue:** Plant with Figs, Lavender, Raspberry, Rose, Strawberry  
Avoid Basil, Cabbage, Cucumber, Sage.

**Sage:** Plant with Rosemary  
Avoid Basil, Cucumber, Onion, Rue.

**Savory:** Plant with Beans  
Avoid none known.  
Comments: Improves growth while attracting bees and discouraging bean beetles.

**Squash:** Plant with Beans, Borage, Catnip, Corn, Icicle Radish, Marigold, Melons, Mint, Nasturtium, Oregano  
Avoid Potato, Pumpkin  
Comments: Planting Icicle Radish and Nasturtium near the base of the Squash plants helps to deter Squash Vine borers.

**Strawberry:** Plant with Bush Beans, Borage, Chives, Sage, Thyme  
Avoid Broccoli, Brussel Sprouts, Cabbage, Collards, Kale, Kohlrabi

**Sunflower:** Plant with Artichoke, Bush Beans, Corn, Cucumber, Squash  
Avoid Potato.

**Sweet Alyssum:** Plant throughout the garden.  
Avoid none known.  
Comments. Attracts Syrphid flies, which eat aphids and thrips as well as attracting bees to the garden.

**Tansy:** Plant with Blackberry, Cucumber, Grapes, Fruit trees, Raspberry, Rose, Squash  
Avoid none known.  
Comments: Deters ants, cucumber beetle, flying insects, flies, Japanese beetle, squash bugs. It may attract cabbageworms. **Note: Toxic to many animals!**

**Tarragon:** Plant throughout the garden, especially with Eggplant.  
**Tarragon:** Avoid none known.  
Comments: Tarragon is disliked by many pests while it is said to enhance the growth and flavor of most vegetables.

**Thyme:** Plant with Eggplant, Potato, Tomato  
Avoid none known.  
Comments: Helps to control cabbageworms. Cabbage butterflies, and flea beetles.

**Tomato:** Plant with Asparagus, Basil, Borage, Chives, Cucumber, Marigold, Mint, Parsley, Peppers, Sage  
Avoid Corn, Potato

**Valerian:** Plant throughout the garden.  
Avoid none known.  
Comments: this plant adds phosphorous to the soil and the compost pile. Valerian is also good for earthworms.

**Zucchini:** Plant with Basil, Beans, Corn, Mint  
Avoid Cucumber, Potato