

What is companion planting?

Companion planting is a method of planting which emphasizes the relationships between plants. Since each plant has different characteristics and family relation, each plant requires different conditions to grow, some need more Nitrogen, some need more sunlight, some need more water, and some attract specific pollinators. There are plants that are compatible and plants that are antagonistic to one another. What makes plants compatible is that planting them together will benefit the growth of those plants, either by enhancing the flavor or one plant attracts a certain pest and the other repels that same pest or they complete each other nutritiously, etc. What makes plants antagonistic is that planting them together will either allow only the dominant of the two to grow or neither of them will thrive.

Here are examples:

[Companion planting guide](#)

[companion planting chart](#)

Companion Planting Chart

Some Natural Insect Repellent Tips

- Ants**
 - Mint • Catmint • Tansy • Garlic • Pennyroyal • Spearmint •
- Aphids**
 - Orange Nasturtiums • Tomato leaves • Basil • Spearmint • Onions • Stinging Nettle • Garlic •
- Cabbage Butterfly**
 - Sage • Mint • Rosemary • Thyme • Pennyroyal • Wormwood • Garlic • Oregano •
- Caterpillars**
 - Garlic • Tomato Leaves • Pepper on plant's leaves •
- Flea Beetles**
 - Tansy • Pennyroyal • Wormwood • Spearmint • Fennel •
- Flies**
 - Tansy • Rue • Wormwood • Eau de Cologne • Mint • Basil •
- Fruit Fly**
 - Tansy • Basil •
- Fungus**
 - Stinging Nettle • Sage • Horseradish •
- Mice**
 - Wormwood • Spearmint • Mint
- Mildew**
 - Chives • Dried Sage • Nettle •
- Mosquitoes**
 - Tansy • Pennyroyal • Garlic • Wormwood • Sassafras: Place near windows & doors or rub on your skin •
- Moths**
 - Sage • Mint • Rosemary • Thyme • Pennyroyal • Wormwood • Lavender • Spearmint •
- Red Spider**
 - Onion •
- Slugs**
 - Oak leaf mulch • Dry Rosemary • Wormwood •
- Snails**
 - Garlic: Collect w/cabbage leaves or inverted citrus peel cups •
- Thrips**
 - Pyrethrum •
- Tomato Worm**
 - Garlic •
- Weevils**
 - Garlic •
- White Fly**
 - Nasturtiums • Basil: Use as spray

Designed by Yayasan IDEP Foundation • www.idepfoundation.org • Based on the Companion Planting Chart © Perennial Products NSW

What is a guild?

A step farther from companion planting, a guild is a purposely designed planting strategy method. Planting together a group of compatible companion plants to create a micro ecosystem. Each plant has a role to play and supports the group. A guild will include a minimum of 3 compatible companion plants. Some guilds are more complex than others. This method requires understanding the relationship between different plants and getting to know the plant more than just which part is edible. In creating an ecosystem there must be an understanding of the plants' needs. This is a traditional growing method in many cultures.

Classic example- the 3 sisters guild- corn- bean- squash a guild traditionally created by the Native Americans.

Corn- grows in a stock, creating a trellis, requires a lot of Nitrogen

Bean- Nitrogen fixture, providing nutrients to the soil, climber

Squash- grows low to the ground, the big leaves of the squash create a ground cover, mulch, to keep the soil moist and loose, the flowers attract many pollinators.

Why grow in this pattern?

1. Encourages biodiversity by planting many varieties of plants together.
2. Attracts pollinators.
3. Requires less intensive care.
4. Less soil erosion, more plant varieties covering the soil.
5. More water filtration.
6. The plants provide nutrients for each other so there is no need of extra fertilizers.
7. Pest control without the use of chemicals.
8. Mimics a natural ecosystem.

Joan's Guild:

Quince tree with comfrey, mountain mint, and lupine; and beans nearby
what is the relationship between these plants?

Quince tree-plant 2 trees for good pollination, needs well drained soil, fragrant yellow fruit is used for jams

Comfrey- penetrates its roots deep into the earth, leaves are big and can offer ground cover, attracts pollinators, has medicinal properties

Mountain mint- spreads like grass as a ground cover, attracts pollinators, scent deters pests

Lupine- tall, attract pollinators, a member of the pea family a nitrogen fixture,

Beans- nitrogen fixture, providing nutrients to the soil, climbers

How to plan a guild:

Plan the guild for my bush cherry. which currently has sedum and iris' and needs some herbs and other plants.
cherry tree guild: <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/edible/fruits/cherry/cherry-tree-guilds.htm>

Resources:

Guilds

1. <https://www.tenthacrefarm.com/how-to-build-a-fruit-tree-guild/>
2. <https://www.permaculturenews.org/2016/08/22/guilds-small-scale-home-garden/>
3. cherry tree guild <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/edible/fruits/cherry/cherry-tree-guilds.htm>
4. 3 sisters guild <https://tobyhemeway.com/resources/the-three-sisters-or-is-it-four/>
<http://blogs.cornell.edu/garden/lessons/curricula/the-three-sisters-exploring-an-iroquois-garden/>

Companion planting

1. Book: "Carrots Love Tomatoes: Secrets of Companion Planting for Successful Gardening" – January 2, 1998 by [Louise Riotte](#)
2. <https://www.burpee.com/gardenadvicecenter/areas-of-interest/flower-gardening/companion-planting-guide/article10888.html>
3. tools <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-NLPmuXCzFY>
4. [companion planting chart](#)
5. <https://www.balearicislandshotels.com/ghorganicscom/>
6. https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/extension/lawns_gardens_trees/
7. <https://www.motherearthnews.com/organic-gardening>