

How-to companion plant



Companion planting is a technique of planting different types of plants together in a way that benefits their growth and health. By strategically placing plants next to each other, you can create a mutually beneficial environment that helps to repel pests, improve soil quality, and increase yields. This practice has been used for centuries and is still popular among gardeners and farmers today.



Companion planting can be a modern form of 'pest control' in a wildlife garden, without the need for harsh chemicals. It can be beneficial as it creates a diverse environment that attracts beneficial insects and repels harmful ones. It also maximizes space utilization and helps reduce soil erosion, leading to healthier plants and a more sustainable garden.

You can use companion planting in a variety of ways, for example, 'trap crops' are plants that are grown to attract and distract pests away from the main crop, thus protecting it from damage. Examples of trap crops include marigolds which attract nematodes, radishes which attract flea beetles, nasturtium which attract butterflies to lay their eggs and sunflowers which attract aphids. You can also use companion planting to increase the productivity of nearby plants, for example beans, peas, marigolds, and yarrow can increase productivity as they improve soil quality and fix nitrogen into the soil.

We have compiled a list of plants that are found to be good companions below:

- **Roses and lavender or geraniums**
- **Asparagus and nasturtiums**
- **Marigold and tomatoes**

- Strawberries and thyme
- Cucumbers and sunflowers
- Corn, beans, and squash
- Lettuce and radishes
- Sweet alyssum and swiss chard
- Carrots and leek
- Clover and apple trees

These are some plants that prefer not to be planted next to each other:

- Tomatoes and potatoes
- Garlic and peas
- Onions and beans
- Cucumbers and sage
- Lettuce and parsley
- Radishes and hyssop
- Dill and carrots



If you decide to start companion planting, let us know what you choose to plant and share some photos on our socials @SongBirdSBS or send a photo to dawn-chorus@songbirdsurvival.org.uk



Learn more about Gardens for Birds and what you can do to help all birds and wildlife at: www.songbirdsos.org/gardens-for-birds

