

Traditional good companion plants

Recommended garden crop associations, gathered from several sources:

For **apples** and other pip fruit, wallflowers, foxgloves, nasturtium and comfrey are useful companions: cut large leaves for mulch. Chives help apples resist black-spot. Keep grass at a distance by mulching apple trees, but do not place mulch onto the tree's trunk. Keep potatoes at a distance. Grow flowers to help attract useful insects.

Asparagus (perennial) can grow with tomatoes, basil and parsley (annuals). They have a similar liking for liquid feeds, to the roots, not leaves. Keep away from onion family.

Aubergine (eggplant) with potatoes, beans & peas, spinach

Dwarf **Beans** with celery, and climbing beans with pumpkin. Keep separate from sunflowers and onion family.

Beetroot - see spinach, kohlrabi.

Broad beans with winter spinach, but keep both these crops separate from potatoes.

Summer **broccoli** with nasturtiums, to deter aphids. Both can be close to potatoes.

Cabbage and other brassicas benefit from sage as a companion, to deter white butterfly and other pests. (Harvest the sage leaves to make a fertiliser, soaking these in water in a closed container, along with stinging nettle and comfrey leaves if available. Do not plant comfrey within vegetable crop-rotation plots or you will not be able to remove their roots - restrict comfrey to a separated garden area, or orchard.)

Cabbage and cucumbers flavour apparently benefits from nearby Thyme, Marjoram, Oregano (perennials) and German chamomile (annual, which can be dug into the soil later, as it accumulates useful minerals.)

Carrots do well with chives, leeks, onions, shallots or garlic, planted in alternate rows - to deter carrot fly. Sage and rosemary (together) nearby are also useful, but these herbs will need less water than the carrots. Keep dill, fennel and celery away from carrots.

The herbs **chives, chervil, and coriander**, also dill, anise are good company for each other and for lettuce, brassicas and apples, helping to resist aphids. If allowed to flower they attract useful pest-controlling insects (hover flies, tiny wasps). Dill can become a weed if it seeds.

Celery grows well with leeks, brassicas and tomatoes - all like extra watering and rich soil, or celery with beans, but keep the bean/pea crop and onions/leeks separate from each-other.

Courgette (zucchini) is best grown on its own.

Garlic and onions are good for roses, help to deter aphids and enhance rose perfume.

Kohl-rabi with beetroot, silverbeet, spinach and onions. Keep away from beans and tomatoes.

Lettuce but not brassicas associate with strawberries and dwarf beans (strawberries are good in the vegetable garden - and remember that strawberry plants should come out after three years, and then not be grown in that patch for a while, as a prudent disease control)

Scented African or Mexican **marigolds** tend to inhibit soil nematodes, which make them a useful vegetable garden plant, mixed in with potatoes, beans, tomatoes and lettuce. If you let them seed they can become a weed, however.

Nasturtium is an aphid deterrent in the vegetable garden, and has attractive edible flowers.

Onions - see carrots, silverbeet.

Pumpkin - see sweetcorn

Radishes are generally useful mixed with other vegetable crops, such as peas, beans, carrots, lettuce.

Silverbeet is happy mixed with onions, beetroot, kohlrabi, tomatoes.

Summer spinach with beans, celery, peppers and aubergine. (You can start these off in Spring using a tunnel or cold frame as frost protection.)

Strawberries - see lettuce.

Sweetcorn with climbing beans/peas, aubergine (egg plant), cucumbers, nasturtium and pumpkins. Keep away from brassicas.

Tomatoes benefit from sweet basil, bee balm and parsley alongside them (if using liquid feeds, apply these to the soil, not the herb leaves). Keep potatoes, sweetcorn, dill and strawberries away from tomatoes.

Geraniums are a useful companion for **grapevines**, helping to resist Japanese beetle. The herb hyssop is another vine companion, but note that it attracts bees, if your grapevine is very close to the house. Peas and beans can accompany grapevines