

Companion Planting

ANISE: Although enjoyed by Eastern Black swallowtails Anise will not only repel aphids is also a good host for predatory wasps which prey which prey on them as well. It can be used to deter pests from brassicas (cabbages and mustards) by camouflaging their odor that would attract the invaders. Anise will actually improve the health of many plants growing near it. Good to plant along with coriander.

BASIL: Plant with tomatoes to improve their growth and flavor. Basil can be helpful in repelling thrips and said to repel flies and mosquitoes as well. Growing close together with you tomatoes you always have a wonderful snack waiting. Tomato, basil on top of some garlic toast ... that is what summer is all about.

BAY LEAF: Sprinkle dried leaves with other deterrent herbs in garden as natural insecticide dust. A good combo: Bay leaves, cayenne pepper, tansy and peppermint. For ladybug home invasions try spreading bay leaves around wherever it seems that they are getting in and they should soon leave. A Bay leaf in your containers of grains will keep out those kitchen cupboard pest away.

BEE BALM Monarda planted along with tomatoes will improve their growth and flavor. Don't forget to put a few pieces of egg shell in the bottom of the hole before planting your tomatoes for extra flavor. Bee Balm is very good for attracting beneficials and pollinating bees. It is a pretty perennial but it is susceptible to get powdery mildew.

BORAGE: A good companion plant for tomatoes, squash, strawberries plants. It will deter tomato hornworms and cabbage worms. Borage may benefit any plant it is growing next to via helping to increasing its resistance to pests and disease. It also adds trace minerals to the soil and makes a good addition the compost pile or as a beneficial mulch for most plants. Borage and strawberries really like each other. For a pollinator garden it is one of the best bee and wasp attracting plants.

CATNIP: Deters flea beetles, aphids, Japanese beetles, squash bugs, ants and weevils. It is said to also repel mice as well. Place sprigs of mint anywhere in the house that you think mice and ants can find their way in.

CHRYSANTHEMUMS: May not be good for butterflies but it kills root nematodes and has been used as in botanical pesticides for centuries such as pyrethrum. Japanese beetles especially hate white flowering chrysanthemums.

CORIANDER: Repels aphids, spider mites and potato beetle. A tea made from coriander leaves to be used in a spray to control spider mites. Anise loves Corriander.

FOUR-O'CLOCKS: Draw Japanese beetles like a magnet but the foliage is poisonous to them. Problem Solve. Keep in mind that Four O'clocks are also poisonous to humans as well. So PLEASE be careful and keep them away from place where the kids play.

GARLIC: Accumulates sulfur from the ground that acts like a naturally occurring fungicide to help nearby plants in disease prevention. It will deter codling moths, Japanese beetles, root maggots, and snails. Planting Garlic at the bases of fruit trees is said to keep the deer away because the trees can take up the scent and use it as their own. It doesn't seem to effect the taste of the fruit.

LARKSPUR: An annual member of the Delphinium family, larkspur will attract Japanese beetles. Just like Four-O'clocks if they eat it, they die. Remember just like Four-O'clocks, it is also poisonous to humans as well.

LAVENDER: Repels fleas and moths. Lavender blooms nourishes many nectar feeding and beneficial insects. You can also use dried sprigs of lavender to repel moths.

LEMON BALM: . Lemon balm has citronella compounds that deters many bugs. The leaves can be ground into an powder mixture and sprinkled around your garden to repel many unwanted garden visitor especially squash bugs. You can also crush and rub the leaves on your skin as an instant mosquito repellent.

MARIGOLDS: Marigolds discourage many types of insects and will even keep soil free of bad nematodes. Whiteflies and rabbits hate the smell of marigolds and Mexican marigold (*T. minuta*) is the most effective of all. Marigolds will keep whiteflies from your tomatoes but they can an adverse effect on your beans and cabbage. Keep Marigold out of your greenhouse because they will attract spider mites.

MARJORAM: Sweet marjoram is a companion plant it improves the flavor of many vegetables and herbs when place close by.

MINT: Various mints will deter white cabbage moths, ants, fleas, mice and aphids while improving the health of cabbage and tomatoes. But be careful it is an very invasive perennial.

MORNING GLORIES: They attract hoverflies which are almost as effective as ladybird beetles or green lacewings in controlling aphids. The adult hoverflies spend a great deal of time visiting flowers and are effective pollinators ranked just behind the honeybee.

NASTURTIUMS: Plant make good barriers around tomatoes, radishes, cabbage, cucumbers, and under fruit trees. They will deter wooly aphids, whiteflies, and various vegetable beetles but attract beneficial predatory insects. They also serve your fruit trees when planted close by because the trees will take up the pungent odor of the plants and then they can repel bugs on their own.

NETTLES, STINGING: Stinging Nettles are rich in silica and calcium that invigorates nearby plants and improves their disease resistance.

PARSLEY: Asparagus, carrot, chives, onions, roses and tomato enjoy having Parsley planted close by. They will even make your roses smell better. Honest! However mint and parsley are enemies so keep them separated.

PEPPERMINT: Repels white cabbage moths, aphids and flea beetles. It is the menthol content in mints that acts as an insect repellent. But bees and the other good guys love it.

PENNYROYAL: When the leaves when crushed and rubbed onto your skin it will repel chiggers, flies, gnats, mosquitoes and ticks. **Warning:** Pennyroyal is very toxic to cats and should never be planted where cats might ingest it or get in onto their skin.

PETUNIAS: They repel the asparagus beetle, leafhoppers, certain aphids, tomato worms. The leaves can be used for making a very effective bug spray tea.

RUE: Deters aphids, flea beetle, slugs, snails, Japanese beetles and Cats. To make it even more effective in your garden, crush a few leaves while still on the plant to release the deterring scent. Do Not plant rue near cucumbers, cabbage, basil or sage.

SUNFLOWERS: Sunflowers are a great Aphid magnet but they are so strong the aphids don't hurt them. But if it keeps the aphids from your other plants they are worth it for just that.

SWEET ALYSSUM: Alyssum flowers will attract hoverflies whose larva just love to devour aphids.

TANSY: Even though it is very invasive it is still recommended as a very effective sugar ant repellent. It will also deter, Japanese beetles, squash bugs, and mice.

Warning: Tansy is toxic to many animals so never plant it any place that livestock can get to it and keep it away from fields where livestock feed. The seeds can blow into the field and germinate on their own.

WHITE GERANIUMS: Will attract Japanese beetles and once they eat the foliage they will die.

YARROW: While not just being a good butterfly host plant it will also attract ladybugs and predatory wasps. Herbs really benefit from having Yarrow close by and the leaves are a great addition to any compost pile.