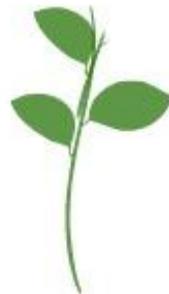


7

COMPANION
PLANTING
MISTAKES TO
AVOID



Companion planting is a great way to improve your garden naturally without having to do a lot of extra work or use any chemicals. Some plants are good companions for each other and they can help to attract beneficial insects or to keep harmful insects away from your garden.

Other plants, though, are bad companions, and planting these bad companions next to one another could actually harm your plants and keep your garden from being as healthy and productive as you would like it to be.

Some plants are bad companions because they could compete for the same nutrients in the soil or because they could be susceptible to the same diseases and pests. And some plants are bad companions because they could stunt the growth of the plants that they are near.

To have the best chance of having a successful garden, you want to try to avoid planting bad companions next to each other and avoid these common companion planting mistakes.

(Note: Not all sources agree on which vegetables are good or bad companions for one another, and these are guidelines for best practice, not absolute rules for a successful garden. If your garden space doesn't allow you to separate all of these plants and you have to place some of them near each other, it might not be ideal, but it's not the end of the world either.)

7 Companion Planting Mistakes to Avoid:

Mistake #1: Putting Onions Near Peas and Beans

It's best not to plant onions next to peas and beans or the onions could stunt the growth of the peas and beans.

Mistake #2: Planting Potatoes and Tomatoes Together

Don't plant potatoes and tomatoes next to each other because they're susceptible to the same kind of blight, and the disease could travel from one to the other.

Mistake #3: Planting Corn and Tomatoes Together

Planting corn and tomatoes near each other could make your tomatoes more susceptible to damage from caterpillars. Corn and tomatoes are also both heavy feeders that require a lot of nutrients from the soil so they could compete for nutrients.

Mistake #4: Planting Tomatoes and Brassica Vegetables Together

Brassica vegetables (cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, kale) should be kept away from tomatoes because they compete for some of the same nutrients.

Mistake #5: Planting Strawberries and Brassica Vegetables Together

Planting strawberries near members of the brassica family, like cabbage and broccoli, could stunt the growth of the brassica vegetables.

Mistake #6: Planting Members of the Same Vegetable Family Together

Planting vegetables from the same family near one another could make them more susceptible to pests or diseases. Plants from the nightshade family (tomatoes, potatoes, eggplant, peppers) and plants from the brassica family (broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, kale) are best kept away from one another because, if insects or fungal diseases invade your garden, all the plants in that family could be wiped out at once. So, when planning out your garden, it's better not to put tomatoes and potatoes next to each other because they're both part of the nightshade family. (Some sources say that tomatoes and peppers can be an exception to this, though, and that it is ok to plant them near one another.) And, the same for broccoli and cabbage because they are both part of the brassica family.

Mistake #7: Planting Tall Plants That Might Shade Shorter Plants

Planting tall plants right next to shorter plants can be a problem even if the plants would otherwise be good companions because the taller plants could block the sunlight and cast the shorter plants into the shade. When planning out your garden, you'll want to pay attention to the direction of the sun and make sure that your tall plants won't shade your shorter plants.