Companion Planting

Types of companion relationship:

**Botanical Families**
*Similar cultural needs and pest problems*

**Performance Families**
*Combinations that help each other grow*

**Pest Fighting Families**
*Plants that attract beneficial insects (trap plants)*
*Or plants that repel insects*

**Cultivation Families:**
*Plants that require similar light, moisture and nutrients*

**Similar Feeding needs**
Heavy feeders: corn, celery, cucumber, eggplant, melons, peppers, pumpkins, tomatoes

Moderate Feeders: Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Kale, Lettuce, Parsley, Spinachm, Swiss Chard

Light Feeders: Beets, Garlic, Onions, Radish, Carrots, Leeks, Potatoes, Turnips

**Soil builders:** Beans and Peas, never together
Cover crops: clover, alfalfa, rye, buckwheat, vetch, field pea, oats and others

Companion plants “lend a hand”
*e.g. Corn shades lettuce, peas grow on arugula*

Use nutrients and space efficiently
*Cabbage & garlic – harvest the nutrient loving cabbage, first*

Help prevent pest problems
*Repellent smell – onions & chives repel carrot rust flies and Japanese beetles*
*Marigolds are classic with beans to repel beetles*

Attract Beneficial Insects with plants & water source
*Tansy brings lady beetles*

**Trap crops**
*Nasturtium attracts aphids*

**Planting Strategies:** Crop rotation, Inter-planting, Succession sowing, Vertical growing, Square-foot gardening, Season extension

Reference: Sally Jean Cunningham, *Great Garden Companions*