

FRIENDS AND COMPANIONS IN THE GARDEN

Insect Detering Naturally with Plants and "Good Bugs"

There are many natural insect-detering plants that Mother Nature has provided for us. Through companion planting we can use these to our advantage in the flower and vegetable garden. This will help lessen the use of chemicals and the impact they have on our health and the environment.

Here is a list of companion plants, which can be planted, (within a 3-foot radius) in the vicinity of a plant you wish to protect.

Asters deter most insects

Basil repels flies and mosquitoes, the tomatoe's best companion and also a great tomatoe seasoning.

Borage deters tomato worm and improves growth and flavour of tomatoes.

Calendula deters most insects.

Catnip deters flea beetles.

Celery deters white cabbage moths.

Chrysanthemum deters most insects.

Dead Nettle deters potato bug and improves growth and flavour of potato.

Eggplants deters Colorado potato beetles.

Flax deters potato bugs.

Garlic deters Japanese beetles, and blight. Antiseptic quality that prevents aphids, garlic oil sprayed on mosquito larva has 100% kill ratio.

Geraniums deters most insects.

Horseradish deters potato bug when planted at corners of potatoe patch.

Henbit is a general insect repellent.

Hyssop deters cabbage moth.

Marigolds are the "workhouse of pest deterrents" when planted throughout the garden. They also discourage Mexican Bean beetles.

Mint deters white cabbage moths.

Mole Plant deters mice and moles if planted sporadically.

Nasturtium deters aphids, squash bugs, striped pumpkin beetles.

Onion family deters most pests.

Petunias protects beans and deters ants.

Radishes deters cucumber beetles.

Rosemary deters cabbage moths, bean beetles and carrot flies.

Rue deters Japanese beetles and many other pests.

Sage deters cabbage moths and carrot flies.

Salsify repels carrot flies.

Southernwood deters cabbage moths.

Summer savory deters bean beetles, also seasons beans well.

Tansy deters flying insects, Japanese beetles, squash bugs and ants.

Tomatoes deter Asparagus beetles and cabbage moths.

Thyme deters cabbageworms.

Wormwood deters carrot flies, cabbage moths, and black flea beetles.

One should also be aware of "good bugs" in the garden. These little friends feed on plant-destroying insects or pollinate fruiting plants. There are two groups of "good bugs" besides the pollinators: the predators and parasites. The predatory hunt or trap their prey and they consume it. Parasitic types catch their prey, lay an egg or eggs) on the captured insect (the host). The larva hatch from these eggs and feed on the body of the host. Here are a few garden friendly insects.

Lace wings feast on aphid eggs and small aphids during all of their life stages.

Ladybugs will eat 40-50 aphids a day. Both adult and larva feed upon aphids. They also vary their diet to include scale insects, alfalfa weevils, potato beetle larva and many other soft-bodied insects.

Praying Mantis are skilled hunters who grab and voraciously devour grasshoppers, moths, beetles, grubs, wasps, scale insects, insect eggs etc.

Spiders use webs to entrap flies and other insects, while jumping spiders pounce on and ambush prey.

Dragonflies catch prey in flight.