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COMPANION PLANTING | SUSTAINABLE PEST CONTROL FOR YOUR VEGETABLE PATCH

There are lots of ways to keep pests away from your vegetable patch without using unnatural chemicals. These harsh chemicals can be very damaging to the soil and plants. They can also harm important wildlife we don't intend to target. Chemical sprays won't tell the difference between a mite or an important pollinator such as a bee or butterfly. Companion planting is a great way to deter pests that is totally natural and harmless.

What is companion planting?

This is a practice of growing certain plants together for the benefits that they have on one another.

How can I benefit from companion planting?

Companion planting will give you a wider selection of crops in your vegetable patch. It will help to keep the soil of your vegetable patch healthy and nutrient-rich. You will also save money on chemical pesticides and any costs linked with having to re-nourishing or condition your soil.

Some combinations to try out:

1. Protect cabbages from caterpillars by growing tomatoes nearby.
2. Protect cucumbers from cucumber beetles by planting radishes nearby.
3. Protect carrots from carrot flies by planting onions and leeks nearby.
4. Protect tomatoes from flies and mosquitoes by planting basil nearby.
5. Protect potatoes by planting horseradish nearby.
6. Protect spinach by planting radish nearby. Leaf miners will chew on the radish leaves instead of your spinach, leaving the radish intact and healthy.

Other plant combinations:

There are plenty of other plants that you can sow amongst your vegetable patch to deter pests.

1. Marigolds are one of the best flowers for keeping all kinds of pests away from your vegetable patch
2. Chrysanthemums are also effective for keeping pests away, especially when planted near tomatoes
3. Lavender is great for repelling ticks and moths but also for keeping mice away

With companion planting, you can continue to grow your own fruit and veg without the need to fight pests. A few simple plants can work wonders in reducing the number of pests and increasing the variety of produce in your garden.

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