

BACKYARD GARDENING: FROM SEED TO TABLE

Planning the Vegetable Garden

Choose Plant Family

Four Types of Gardening Families:

- Botanical families—crops that are genetically related and have similar needs (cool or warm crop etc) or pests.
- Feeding families—crops that are heavy feeders and require the same nutrients.
- Performance families—some plants do better when planted with a “partner”. They help one another grow.
- Pest-fighting families—plants that either attract beneficial insects that dine on pests or repel pests by either confusion (smell is stronger than the plant the pest is searching for) or is a sacrifice plant (radish greens lure flea beetles away from broccoli onto the radish)

Vegetable Families Botanical Family

Common Name

Edible Members

*Allium or Onions

*Chives, onions, scallions, shallots, garlic, leeks

*Amaranth or Beet

*Amaranth beet, chard, spinach

*Carrot or Dill

*Angelica, anise, caraway, Chervil, cilantro, cumin, dill, lovage, parsley

*Aster, Daisy, Sunflower

*Artichokes, cardoons, lettuce, raddichio, artichokes

*Brassica, Cabbage, Mustard

*Arugula, Bok Choy, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, Kale Kohlrabi, Turnip, Mustard, Radish, Rutabaga, Cucumber

*Cucumber, Gourd, Melon or Pumpkin

*Cucumber, Melon Pumpkin, squash, watermelon

*Legumes

*Beans, Peas, Lentils

*Mints

*Basil, Rosemary, Sage, Marjoram, Oregano, Thyme

*Nightshade

*Potato, Eggplant, Tomato, Pepper

COOL SEASON CROPS

Plant transplants April

Kale
Potatoes
Cabbage
Lettuce, Spinach
Chard
Broccoli, Brussel Sprouts

Plant July or early August

Brussel Sprouts
Lettuce – every two weeks

Plant early May

Carrots
Beets
Onions
Radishes
Turnips/Rutabagas
Peas

WARM SEASON CROPS

Plant transplants after Danger of Frost is Past

Tomato
Squash, Pumpkin
Melons
Peppers
Eggplant
Basil/ Thyme

Direct sow seeds after danger of frost is passed

Corn
Beans
Cucumbers
Flowers

Feeding Families

Heavy Feeders

Corn
Cucumbers
Eggplant
Pumpkins
Squash
Tomatoes

Moderate

kale
broccoli
lettuce
chard
cabbage

Light

beets
garlic
carrots
leeks
spinach, onions
potatoes

**Soil builders: beans and peas

Plants That Support One Another

Supporters

corn
sunflowers
tomatoes

Climbers

pole beans
snow peas
cucumbers

Shade Lovers

lettuce
spinach
chard

Trickster/Sacrifices

beans/potatoes
eggplant/potatoes
radishes/cucumbers
onions,garlic/carrot

CHOOSE COMPANION PLANTS FOR YOUR VEGETABLES

*Using the Pest-Fighting Family lists of plants that attract beneficial bugs and the list of plants that repel bad bugs, select plants to use in your vegetable garden.

*Using the list of Performance Family plants select a performance family for your garden.

PEST FIGHTING FAMILIES: PLANTS THAT ATTRACT GOOD BUGS

Plants	Benefits
*Borage <i>Blooms mid-summer to fall, Annual, fuzzy gray green, Small blue flowers</i>	Attracts bees
*Catnip <i>Mid to late bloom</i>	Attracts bees, parasitic wasps and Cats to eat voles
*Chamomile <i>Late spring to summer bloom, annual has daisy-like flowers</i>	Attracts hoverflies, parasitic wasps. Also good ground cover
*Dill <i>Summer blooms annual green flower clusters at the tip of long stalks blue green leaves</i>	Attracts lady bugs, wasps, spiders, hoverflies, bees
*Fennel <i>Mid to late summer blooms, semi-hardy perennial with branching stalks Deep green feathery leaves and yellow flowers</i>	Attracts hoverflies, lady bugs, parasitic wasps, tachinid flies
*Nasturtium <i>Summer blooming annual spreading vine, bright orange and yellow Flowers</i>	Shelter for ground beetles and spiders. Used to cover bare areas. Use in corn or cucumber area to have beautiful garden.
*Milkweed <i>A weed</i>	Lady bugs

PEST FIGHTING FAMILIES: PLANTS THAT REPEL BAD BUGS

Plants

*Basil

Benefits

Next to paths, aromatic oils confuse pests esp. on tomatoes, eggplant

repels aphids, mites, mosquitos, tomato hornworm

*Borage

with tomatoes

repels tomato hornworm

*Calendula

attracts beneficials

repels asparagus beetle

*Catnip

next to peppers, put in pot and move around garden

repels aphids, asparagus beetles, Colorado potato beetle, squash beetles

*Horseradish

do not plant with potatoes, with raspberries or strawberries

repels Colorado potato beetle

*Hyssop

among broccoli, brussel sprouts & cauliflower

repels cabbage moths

*Marigolds

strong repellent quality against nematodes

repels Mexican bean beetle

*Onions

interplant with carrots

repels carrot rust flies

*Radishes

among squash, cucumbers, pumpkins, broccoli--
confusion

repels Cucumber beetles, flea beetles

*Wormwood

perennial clusters or herb border of garden

repels flea beetles

*Thyme

use as ground cover or as cluster near garden

repels cabbage moths

PERFORMANCE/PEST-FIGHTING COMPANIONS

Plant	Attracts	Repels
<i>Potato Family:</i>		
Peas	Goldenrod	Catnip
Potato	Cosmos	Basil
Beans	Dill	Catnip
<i>Cabbage Family:</i>		
Cabbage	Chamomile	Hyssop
Kale	Chamomile	Radishes
Broccoli	Calendula	Wormwood
Lettuce	Sunflower	Sage
Brussels Sprouts	Sunflower	Thyme
<i>Tomato Family:</i>		
Tomato	Bee Balm	Catnip
Peppers	Goldenrod	Basil
Chard	Chamomile	Borage
Eggplant		Savory
<i>Roots & Greens:</i>		
Spinach	Calendula	Onions
Carrots	Cosmos	Onions
Beets	Dandelions	Basil
Turnips/Rutabagas		Radishes
<i>Squash & Vines:</i>		
Corn	Borage	Catnip
Squash	Nasturtium	Radish
Pole beans/peas	Dill	
Melons	Yarrow	Radish
Cucumber	Sunflower	Radish

Also see Companion Planting Handout on Landon's Greenhouse & Nursery Website: landongreenhouse.com