

# The Companion Planting Guide

## How to Group Your Garden for Success

### BEST FRIENDS (BENEFICIAL PAIRINGS)



**Tomatoes' Flavor & Protection Squad**  
Basil boosts tomato flavor and confuses pests, while onions and garlic deter spiders, and marigolds protect roots from nematodes.



### THE "THREE SISTERS" TRIO



**The Carrot Protection Group**  
Onions, leeks, and chives mask the scent from carrot flies, while peas and beans provide a genetic nitrogen boost to the soil.



**Cucumber Support Systems**  
Dill attracts beneficial wasps and nasturtiums act as a trap crop for spiders; corn provides a natural trellis for vines to climb.

### FLOWER BODYGUARDS



**Marigolds: The Root Protectors**  
Plant these at the corners of garden beds to provide a chemical defense against soil-borne nematodes.



**Nasturtiums: The Sacrificial "Aphid Magnets"**  
These act as trap crops that draw aphids away from vegetables, simply trim and discard heavily affected leaves.



**Sunflowers: The Biological Pest Control**  
Tall sunflowers serve as perches for songbirds that visit the garden to eat pest insects.

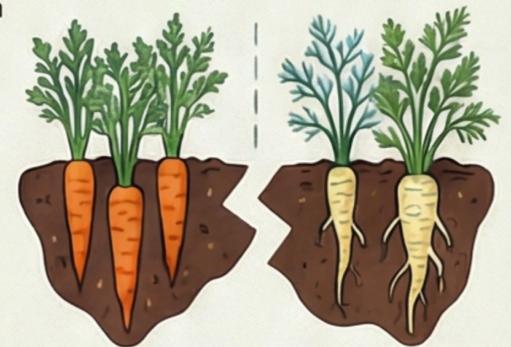
### GARDEN ENEMIES (PAIRINGS TO AVOID)



**Tomatoes vs. Cabbage & Potatoes**  
Avoid planting tomatoes near the cabbage family or potatoes, as they can attract shared pests or spread blight diseases.



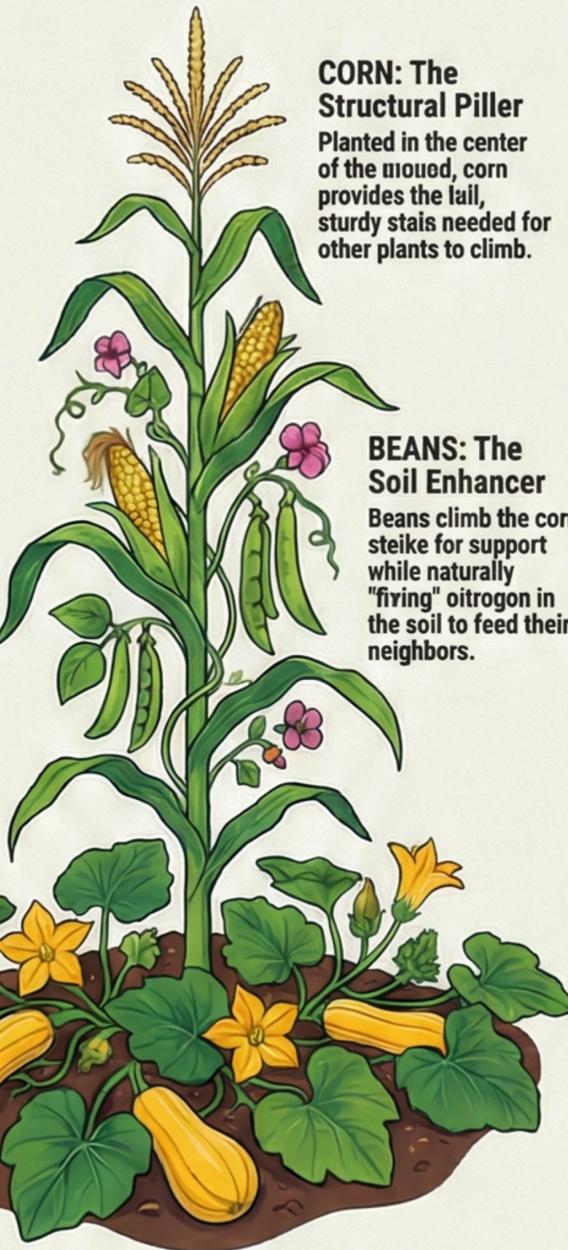
**Beans vs. The Onion Family**  
Beans should be kept away from onions and garlics, as these can stunt the growth of the bean plants.



**Carrots vs. Dill & Parsnips**  
These pairings should be avoided to prevent cross-pollination issues that can affect the quality of the crop.



**Cucumbers vs. Sage**  
Sage is known to stunt the growth of cucumber plants and should be planted in a different area.



**CORN: The Structural Pillar**  
Planted in the center of the mound, corn provides the tall, sturdy stalks needed for other plants to climb.

**BEANS: The Soil Enhancer**  
Beans climb the corn stalks for support while naturally "fixing" nitrogen in the soil to feed their neighbors.

**SQUASH: The Living Mulch**  
Large squash leaves shade the soil to retain moisture and act as a natural weed suppressant.

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### PRO-TIPS FOR GARDEN LAYOUT



**The North-Side Rule**  
Always place tall plants like corn or sunflowers on the north side of the bed so they don't shade out shorter crops.



**Intercropping for Efficiency**  
Plant quick growers like radishes between slow-starters like peppers to harvest the fast crops before the large plants used the space.



**Annual Family Rotation**  
Rotate plant families to different beds each year to prevent the buildup of soil-borne diseases.