

Chestnut's Article – March 2021 – 'Companion Planting – Gardening Friends at Chestnut'

Companion Planting – Gardening Friends at Chestnut

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As we head into spring with daffodils and new leaves on the trees it's a good time to plan your garden space for the year. If your plan includes vegetable crops, companion planting can enable everybody to 'grow their own' whatever space is available.

Veg crops have traditionally been incorporated into floral borders and are a practical and environmentally friendly way of combating pests by growing strongly scented plants alongside edible plants to deter pests or lure them away from your crops.

Planting combinations are plants that like the same sort of growing conditions – for example a pot filled with lavender, rosemary and thyme not only looks and smells wonderful, but also adds flavoursome fresh herbs to your cooking.

If you have a window box you can grow tomatoes, lettuce, herbs or strawberries. Adding nasturtiums will give a pop of colour as well as attracting beneficial hoverflies, the larvae of which prey on aphids.

Carrots grown with leeks or garlic chives give pest protection to each other whilst planting French Marigolds around your tomato plants will help to deter whitefly.

These are just a few ideas and we've got many more planting combinations with seeds, composts, tools and gardening accessories to get you started! Whatever restrictions are in place when you come to reading this article if the nursery is closed our web-shop will be open!

Whether you're planning a full veg patch or want to add extra pollinators and pest deterring plants to your garden our fabulous range at the Nursery will help you to choose your plant partners!

Chestnut Nursery, the little garden centre with a big heart 'caring for people; caring for plants'

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Chestnut Nursery is a registered charity providing meaningful work for adults with enduring mental illness through the therapy of horticulture. Visit us at our nursery site next to Poole Park; 75 Kingland Road BH15 1TN. Open 7 days a week. Free customer parking.

From the Ashley Cross Link