

Know 10 Companion Plants

About Community in Bloom

Community in Bloom (CIB) is a programme that was launched by the National Parks Board (NParks) in 2005. It aims to nurture a gardening culture among Singaporeans by encouraging and facilitating community gardening efforts. It is also an opportunity to build community bonds and strengthen social resilience in our City in Nature.



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For more information, visit our website at www.nparks.gov.sg/cib or email us at CommunityInBloom@nparks.gov.sg

For more information on plants in Singapore, visit NParks Flora & Fauna Web at www.nparks.gov.sg/florafauweb

For more gardening resources and tips, visit go.gov.sg/gardening-resources

To learn more about our City in Nature, scan the QR code or visit www.nparks.gov.sg/about-us/city-in-nature



This brochure features 10 of the most commonly cultivated companion plants in Singapore. Companion planting generally refers to planting different plants that benefit each other together in the garden. We hope that this brochure will encourage you to try companion planting on your own or in your community garden!

The Three Sisters

A classic example of companion planting may be found in the 'three sisters' method of planting, where corn, beans and squash are grown together. Corn provides a structure on which the beans can climb, beans add nitrogen to the soil, and squash grows as a groundcover, keeping the soil cool and reducing moisture loss. Each plant benefits the others, and produces a greater harvest if grown together than if planted individually.

Companion Planting

This is the practice of cultivating different plants that benefit each other together in the garden.

Benefits of Growing Companion Plants

1. Attract pollinators
2. Deter and trap pests
3. Improve soil condition for other plants

Commonly Grown Companion Plants

Here are some of the most common companion plants grown in Singapore's community gardens:

- Basil
- Brinjal
- Chinese Chives
- Corn
- Lemon Grass
- Legumes
- Marigold
- Mint
- Sunflower
- Sweet Potato

Basil

Scientific Name
Ocimum basilicum



Benefits

- Scented leaves confuse pests, making it difficult for them to find plants
- Flowers attract pollinators

Cultivation and Plant Care

Basil is best grown in a well-drained location. It thrives in full sun and requires moderate watering.

Good Companion for

Tomatoes

Brinjal

Scientific Name
Solanum melongena



Benefits

- Attracts sucking pests away from other plants in the garden, making it an ideal trap plant

Cultivation and Plant Care

Brinjal is best grown in a well-drained location. It thrives in full sun and requires moderate watering.

Good Companion for

Legumes (Beans), Passion Fruit, Tomatoes

Chinese Chives

Scientific Name
Allium tuberosum



Benefits

- Helps prevent bacterial wilt disease which can affect tomatoes
- Helps repel pests such as cucumber beetles, aphids, and some fruit worms
- Flowers attract pollinators

Cultivation and Plant Care

Chinese Chives is best grown in a well-drained location. It thrives in full sun and requires moderate watering.

Good Companion for

Lettuce, Roses, Tomatoes

Corn

Scientific Name
Zea mays



Benefits

- Has vigorous roots that can reach a depth of 2 m and break up heavy clay soil, leaving channels for the roots of other plants to grow
- Can be used as structures for bean plants to climb on, but should be allowed to reach 0.5 m in height before planting the companion plant

Cultivation and Plant Care

Corn is best grown in a well-drained location. It thrives in full sun and requires moderate watering.

Good Companion for

Chinese Amaranth, Gourds, Legumes (Beans), Tuberous Crops

Lemon Grass

Scientific Name
Cymbopogon citratus



Benefits

- Produces citronella, an oil that repels pests

Cultivation and Plant Care

Lemon grass is best grown in a well-drained location. It thrives in full sun and requires moderate watering.

Good Companion for

Basil, Ginger, Marigolds, Mints, Tomatoes, Turmeric

Legumes (Beans)

Scientific Name
Numerous species in the family Fabaceae



Benefits

- Roots foster bacteria that fix nitrogen from the air, which is released into the soil as the plant dies and decomposes
- Species and cultivars that grow close to the ground help to keep the soil cool

Cultivation and Plant Care

Legumes are best grown in a well-drained location. They thrive in full sun and require moderate watering.

Good Companion for

Chinese Amaranth, Corn, Marigolds, Mints, Rosemary

Marigolds

Scientific Name
Tagetes spp.



Benefits

- Release compounds into the ground that kill nematodes
- Scented leaves deter sucking insects (e.g. aphids)
- Flowers attract pollinators

Cultivation and Plant Care

Marigolds are best grown in a well-drained location. They thrive in full sun and require moderate watering.

Good Companion for

Chillies, Legumes (Beans), Tomatoes

Mints

Scientific Name
Mentha spp.



Benefits

- Attract whiteflies away from other plants in the garden, making them good trap plants
- Scented foliage deters pests and sucking insects
- Fast, spreading growth creates a green mulch and keeps the soil cool

Cultivation and Plant Care

Mints are best grown in a well-drained location. They thrive in full sun and require moderate watering.

Good Companion for

Brassicas (Kailan, Lettuce), Brinjal, Tomatoes

Sunflower

Scientific Name
Helianthus annuus



Benefits

- Large flowers attract pollinators from a long distance away
- Helps serve as a distracting decoy for plants susceptible to aphids
- Provides shade for plants such as cucumber and lettuce

Cultivation and Plant Care

Sunflower is best grown in a well-drained location. It thrives in full sun and requires moderate watering.

Good Companion for

Bell Peppers, Cucumbers, Lettuce, Melons

Sweet Potato

Scientific Name
Ipomoea batatas



Benefits

- Grows as a ground cover, cooling the soil, reducing erosion and minimising moisture loss

Cultivation and Plant Care

Sweet Potato is best grown in a well-drained location. It thrives in full sun and requires moderate watering.

Good Companion for

Lady's-finger