

Companion planting experiment

Companion planting is a gardening strategy where you plant certain plants next to each other to help them grow better and protect each other from pests. It's like putting plant friends together to make them healthier and happier.

Marigolds are not only a pretty, orange flower, but also wonderful companion plants. They repel many pests, for example nematodes damaging other plants. Marigolds have strong roots that can penetrate even heavy soil, improving its structure and delivering nutrients and oxygen to lower parts of our raised bed. They also attract beneficial insects, which will pollinate our vegetables. Last but not least, they are not fussy and easy to grow, even for beginning gardeners.

Mid May



Marigolds, calendulas, lemon balm and sweet peas- we hope they will like each other's company.



Marigolds and cucumbers are sharing this space. We added an extra bag of fertile compost here.

Late July



Marigolds, Calendulas and strawberries are getting along well. At least the flowers enjoy this bed, strawberries may need some boost to help them grow larger.

Early September



Only now does our pumpkin have its first flowers. We are afraid that the pumpkins will not be ready for Halloween. Looks like our Marigolds didn't help much here and even a prickly weed has found its way next to the pumpkin. We need to get rid of this one.



The runner beans are drying out. It is normal at this time of the year, especially after the latest heatwave, that scorched most of our plants. Cucumbers growing with beans to cover the soil with their leaves, are too dry and urgently need watering. We are happy to see some nice and long pods with large beans inside.



Marigolds rule the beds!
Invincible orange flowers have dominated the space. Otherwise, it would be a sad sight with dry, bare soil. It's yet another reason to plant Marigolds next year.