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Beginner lessons for Companion Planting

Boost Your Garden with Companion Planting Basics!

DEFINITION

Companion planting is the practice of growing different plants together for mutual benefits. It enhances growth, repels pests, and improves flavor.

KEY CONCEPTS

Mutual Benefits

Certain plants can enhance each other's growth and health when grown together.

Pest Control

Some plants naturally repel pests, protecting their companions from damage.

Soil Health

Companion plants can improve soil quality by fixing nitrogen or adding organic matter.

Attracting Pollinators

Certain flowers attract beneficial insects that help pollinate nearby crops.

Plant Compatibility

Not all plants work well together; understanding compatibility is key to success.

EXAMPLES

- Tomatoes and basil grow well together, enhancing flavor and repelling pests.
- Marigolds deter nematodes, making them great companions for vegetable gardens.
- Beans fix nitrogen in the soil, benefiting nearby corn and squash.

MEMORY TIPS

- ★ Remember 'Bugs Be Gone' for pest-repelling plants like marigolds.
- ★ Use 'Basil Boosts Tomatoes' to recall the beneficial pairing.
- ★ Think 'Beans Build Soil' to remember legumes' role in nitrogen fixation.

COMMON MISTAKES

- ✗ Planting incompatible species that hinder each other's growth.
- ✗ Ignoring the specific needs of each plant, like sunlight and water.
- ✗ Overcrowding plants, which can lead to competition for resources.

QUICK RECAP

Companion planting involves growing plants together for benefits like pest control and improved growth. Understanding plant compatibility and mutual benefits is crucial for a thriving garden.