



Planting practices that support pest management

Crop Rotation: Divide your garden plan into clearly defined sections for each vegetable family you want to grow, when you have them laid out in a way that is easy to rotate each year, you will be able to avoid repeat attacks of the same pest or disease in the same beds. Crop rotation will help manage nutrients in the soil, as different crops have different preferences and draw nutrients from varying depths of the soil.

Intercropping:

Once you have your basic rotation schedule laid out, you can interplant different crops that are beneficial to the main crop of each area.

By integrating a variety of plants into your garden beds, you make it just a little bit harder for pests to find their favorite foods. Plants with strong scents like onions, garlic, flowers, and herbs are useful in distracting pests and sometimes attracting pollinators. They also make a nice addition to your garden and your dinner plate!

Interplant wisely: Herbs and flowers are wonderful in the garden and in the kitchen and they are very easy to grow, they are so easy to grow that they can take over like weeds. It is sometimes best to contain the herbs in a large pot or container and place it within your garden beds. Plus when it gets too cold for some of the less hardy herbs, you can bring them inside for the winter. If you are unsure whether an herb will try to take over, ask the staff at the nursery or garden supply store, use the internet, or come by and ask us at the Urban Farm.

Herbs, Flowers and Vegetables to deter insect pests:

Thyme, Rosemary and Sage repel cabbage moths, as does **celery**, plant them with cabbage family plants: Brussels sprouts, Collards, Kale, Broccoli, Cauliflower, Kohlrabi

Mint will repel cabbage moths and ants always contain mint in a planter or it will take over your entire garden and life.

Borage repels tomato hornworm and attracts bees. Plus borage produces beautiful and tasty edible flowers. Borage leaves are edible when they are young-before they grow the fuzzy hair. Borage will require some space and self sows- so be ready to share some borage seedlings with your neighbors and give it plenty of room.

Basil is traditionally planted next to tomatoes to deter pests.

Marigolds have a scent that repels many insects. French marigolds repel whiteflies, tomato hornworms, bean beetles, cucumber beetles and asparagus beetles. Marigolds can be grown and then turned under to prevent root knot nematodes.

Nasturtium produces a lovely peppery edible flower, and edible leaves plus it repels squash bugs and whiteflies.

Chives, garlic and onions repel ants, aphids, and flea beetles. Garlic also offends Japanese beetles, vegetable weevils, and spider mites. Garlic is planted in the fall and matures in the spring. Garlic shoots are a special treat that you get for growing your own garlic. Garlic, onions and chives are members of the allium family and most vegetables will benefit from the having an allium nearby. The exceptions are asparagus, beans, peas and sage.

Radishes repel cucumber beetle and supposedly squash vine borers, here on the Urban Farm, we'll try anything to repel the squash vine borer!

Horseradish repels pests of the potato plant.

