*Companion Planting*

I’ll start with some general add them all over the place to bring in bees & butterflies (second only to the honey bee for pollinating) to pollinate and keep pests at bay. A general rule for me is to have blooms from early spring through fall.

Marigolds

Daisies (toxic to the Japanese beetle)

Nasturtium (wonderful in a salad also)

Alyssum (perfect near fruit trees since they add nitrogen to the soil)

Verbascum aka mullein (butterflies love them)

Narcissus (helps keep grasses away since their root systems are dense)

Scented geraniums (Japanese beetles hate their scent)

Russian Sage (constant blooms)

Summer Savory (great pest deterrent)

Anise (another great pest deterrent)

Lavender – a bee’s favorite

Garlic or allium whether eatable or ornamental (great pest control)

I could go on forever, but blooms in your garden do a lot for your veggies and your spirit.

The following are perfect companions. They deter detrimental bugs from their partner(s) plant as well as gifting the dirt with nutrients that their partner(s) love. Perfectly paired!

Asparagus with tomatoes, nasturtiums & parsley

 Basil with tomatoes

 Beans with strawberries, petunias, rosemary, savory & potatoes (I’m going to underscore beans & potatoes together as an important pairing as potatoes discourage the bean beetle and the bean discourages the potatoes beetle and we all grow lots of each)

 Beets with onions

 Broccoli with chamomile (I prefer German), zinnias, mint & chives

 Brussels Sprouts with chamomile, zinnias & mint

 Cabbage with rosemary, sage, thyme, chamomile, zinnias & mint

 Carrots with chives, tomatoes, peas, lettuce and almost every herb EXCEPT DILL

 Cauliflower with zinnias and mint

 Celery and leeks

 Chard and onions

 Chives with carrots, broccoli, lettuce and peas

 Corn with beans, cucumbers, squash, potatoes, radishes and any berry

 Cucumbers with corn & radishes

 Garlic with berries, lettuce

 Lettuce with carrots, chives, garlic, radishes, strawberries, zinnias

 Parsnips with beans, potatoes and peas

 Peas with carrots, chives, garlic and radishes

 Potatoes with beans, corn, flax dead nettle

 Pumpkins LOVE corn

 Squash with nasturtiums, corn, geraniums and borage

 Strawberries with beans and lettuce

 Tomatoes with most herbs, onions, asparagus, carrots and if we keep having weird weather, cabbage

**NOT FRIENDS, EVER**

 The following aren’t helpful for one another; moreover, they are actually harmful and fight for the same nutrients in the dirt and will quickly deplete your soil. Keep them in a separate bed all together. If you rotate your crops, keep in mind that one should never follow the other in the same bed.

 Beets and beans

 Broccoli and strawberries

 Carrots and dill

 Cauliflower and strawberries

 Chives and beans (yes, I know peas & chives love one another)

 Garlic and any bean, pea, ok legumes

 Onions and peas, beans

 Parsnips and carrots, celery & caraway

 Peas and onions

 Potatoes and squash, tomatoes, sunflowers

 Pumpkins and potatoes

 Strawberries and cabbage, broccoli, Brussels, cauliflower

Tomatoes and potatoes, cabbage

The only non-plant deterrent I’m going to add is the swizzle stick or any small sipping straw. Those cannot be beat when stopping the cutworm. As you put your veggie starts/slips in the ground, before you pat it down, push in a swizzle stick touching the stem of your plant. If you’re growing from seed, as soon as the stem of your plant is up a few inches, insert the stick, again touching the stem. If the worm cannot wrap completely around the stem, it can’t cut it and won’t do any harm. Sweet~

My last food for thought? Don’t plant rows of the same crop. I always mix it up to stop invasion of destructive insects. If you have their favorite veggie all together, laid out just like the perfect buffet – odds are good you’ll have a major invasion. I prefer to make them work for their supper and have a mixing bowl of veggies, herbs, fruits and flowers in my rows. I won’t lose any crop to a single pest as a result. I hope this helps; it’s a list I keep handy as I begin to lay out what and where for the spring. If you have something to add – please send it along! Granted it’s not as much fun as playing in the dirt, but planning your attack is the next best thing, especially when it’s too early to plant outside!

Marianne