

COMPANION CONTAINER GARDENING FOR BEGINNERS

*A Complete
Step-By-Step Guide*



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Companion Container Gardening for Beginners

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There is nothing like enjoying fruits and vegetables fresh out of your backyard. The rich flavor, aroma and taste are definitely worth the little extra effort involved in growing your own plants.

But what about the people who live in buildings and apartments where a “backyard” is not available and the space is quite limited? Or what about those who simply cannot create their backyard gardens for some reason? This is where companion container gardening comes to your rescue!

There is nothing that can stop you from cultivating a variety of foods – not even limited space. The only thing you need is the will and patience to pursue this activity. In here you will find:

1. Information about “container gardening” and “companion container gardening.”
2. Reasons and benefits of why you should go for companion container gardening.
3. How to go about the process – from the beginning right until the end.
4. Things you need to keep in mind while pursuing your passion.
5. Tips to make this journey truly rewarding.
6. Common mistakes that can cost you your interest.
7. Making strategic use of companion gardening containers – in the house as well as outside.
8. And lots more!

If you like the idea of companion container gardening but do not have a clue how to go about it, this eBook can help you get there easily and quickly. After all, the fruits of victory are just around the corner!

So what are you waiting for?! Get yourself a copy of this detailed Companion Container Gardening Guide today – it is up for grabs!

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Introduction



Everyone has had their dreams about the perfect house and the perfect life when they grow older. In almost 90% of the cases, these include a lush green backyard lined with an exotic variety of plant species. The image is not just beautiful – it reflects your truest inner aesthetic sense!

However, dreams do not materialize all the time. While some people might be able to get along with their thoughts and imaginations, others might end up in a totally different scenario. For instance, in metropolitan cities, accommodation in apartments and flats is particularly popular. And in some cases, it is more about convenience and personal liking rather than affordability.

So does that really mean you need to sacrifice your dreams completely? We think that isn't necessary. As the wise people say, where there is a will, there is a way! All you need to do is find out what works best for you.

If truth be told, while there is a lot you will need to completely forego when shifting from your dreams and adjusting in the present facility, you can still have a backyard with the exotic plant species where you can enjoy your morning (or evening) cup of tea (or coffee) while relaxing.

Interested to know more about it? Keep reading to find out everything you need to know that can preserve your dreams and let you turn them into reality! You just need the right attitude and tools to get things done!

What is Container Gardening?



Most plants need a relatively small amount of soil and fertilizer to grow. Even though they are best cultivated in the ground, it is not essential for the plants' growth. Optimal conditions for the plant can also be provided in a container or pot.

It is not exactly a recent or alien phenomenon. Container gardening has been practiced for ages. You just need to make sure that whatever plant species you plan to grow in a container's requirements for soil and space are met. As long as these are provided, you are good to go!

Some plant species will need a lot of space for the roots to spread out and absorb the nutrients. Some work well with extremely small spaces. You need to be careful about selecting the container according to the plant you are planning to grow. And then you can always put these plant pots near a window, out in the balcony or in an indoor space where its need for sunlight is met. You can also try growing some of the indoor plants to add some natural beauty to your interior decoration.

As long as the plants are growing impressively, you can enjoy the sights and make the most of the space available to you. There is nothing like enjoying a cup of coffee after a long tiring day while sitting next to a silent

yet understanding housemate. And if there are a few flowers, the natural aroma wafting from the petals is definitely worth the companionship. So what is the wait all about?!

What is Companion Gardening?

Plants need buddies of their own plus you need to make a little extra effort to make sure the plants get along with each other well.

Companion gardening is a concept whereby two (or more) plants are cultivated in the same space. It does not work out with every plant combination – you need to find a pair that compliments each other perfectly. This means the plants will have similar demands in terms of water needs, sunlight needs and soil requirements.

The plants serve as an inspiration for each other. They boost one another in terms of growth and high quality produce.

In some cases, especially when crops are planted near herbal plants, one may serve as a tool to protect another from a wide array of plant diseases. For instance, some herbal plants are known to have nitrogen-adjusting properties. They restore the balance of soil's nutrients to help other plants grow well.

In other cases, herbal plants may be able to prevent pest infestations and other similar problems. This builds a mutually beneficial relationship between the two which is what companion gardening is all about.

How Do You Merge the Two Concepts?



Now that you have a fair idea about what container gardening is and what companion gardening is, how about you combine the two concepts and then work on your personal green area? Does it sound too complicated? It actually isn't really so!

You can try companion gardening within containers. All you really need to be careful about is that there is ample space in the container for both plants to grow. This might mean working with large containers but nevertheless, the end result is worth the effort.

The second thing you need to be careful about is selecting the companions. Since they are going to stay with one another for more or less the entire duration of their lives, you need to be careful about the pairs you make. At this point, it is not only about complimentary nutritional requirements of the plants but also about their colors and produce.

Do you get the general picture? The benefit of two for one; making use of complimentary characteristics and making intelligent use of space – this is how container companion gardening works!

If you are still not comfortable with the idea, do not fret! Wait until the end of this eBook and we will surely be able to change your mind. After all, when you want something, you can't let it go that easily until you've tried and failed at all efforts. And this isn't about failing – it is a proven effective alternative! Let us walk you through the procedure towards a successful outcome!

Why Companion Container Gardening?



There are quite a few benefits attached with companion container gardening. The most important benefit is that this technique works when all traditional ideas fail. If you do not have a backyard, companion container gardening is easily the best alternative you can work with.

If gardening is one of your hobbies, we believe there should be nothing to stop you from practicing it – not even the obvious absence of land. Besides, there are other pros attached with companion container gardening. Here are a few to help you think along the same lines:

Intelligent Use of Space

As our metropolitan cities become overpopulated, the “free” space inside homes becomes smaller. This is the era of architectural innovation that helps you make good use of whatever area is available to you. This is done without ignoring your need for convenience and comfort.

The same concept – when applied to gardening – emerges in the form of companion container gardening. Handling too many pots or containers can become quite a challenge – it can even become rather messy at times. Plus, there is a strong possibility some of your plants may end up being deprived of their necessities.

Companion container gardening helps you make intelligent use of space by planting two (or more) varieties in the same pot. So you are not only relieved from the trouble of juggling multiple containers – you also have the chance to experiment more intensively with your interior decoration choices!

There are minimal limitations as far as companion container gardening is concerned, that is, if you know what you need to do to meet your objectives. “Do more with less” is the driving force behind such tactics. So if you like to grow your own crops and also have ample room in your home for other things, this is your best choice!

Mobility

People move around all the time. Although living in the same place for a substantial portion of your life is not exactly fictional, the probability for this happening to you, especially in the present age, is quite slim. For the most part, you need to be prepared for moving around – if not outside the city or country, then for within city translocations.



Plants sown in ground are more difficult (not to mention tricky) to move around as compared to container plants, regardless of their size. The time and effort you put into the plant while cultivating it surely develops an unexplained bond. So if, at some point in time, you are required to move to a different place, the separation can be quite painful.

With companion container plants, this isn't necessary. They offer greater mobility and can be taken along with your luggage to the new place. So if you are someone who moves around frequently or if you have it in the job description, companion container gardening is definitely better for you whether or not the backyard is available!

Easy To Care For

When you are caring for plants grown into the ground, you will come across quite a few challenges that are wholly absent when opting for companion container gardening. Here is a gist of the differences that make latter the better option.

Lesser Probability for Weeds and Pests

It has been observed that plants grown in containers are at a lower risk of damage due to weeds and pests.

It may be because of the limited space or due to the absence of “vicinity” that can encourage weeds and pests. Nevertheless, the chances of spoilage are quite slim.

Consequently, there are fewer concerns at your hands about the health and welfare of your plants. They can thrive freely without competition.

No Heavy Gardening Tools Involved



When preparing the ground for planting the seeds (or seedlings), you are compelled to use heavy gardening tools like a shovel, cart, gardening fork, mallet and other arduous tools. They require you to put in significant

amount of laborious work to achieve your dream. This isn't the case with companion container gardening.

If you decide to use containers for your plants, rest assured you will not need to use shovels or gardening forks. Instead, you will be using lighter tools like a trowel, knives and others. They are not only easy to handle and work with, they also demand less effort and yield more productive results.

Intelligent Selection Makes Caring Even Easier

As mentioned previously, some crops grow rather nicely in the companionship of certain herbs. So if you are making intelligent selections when deciding which plants to put together in the container, you can further reduce your work.

Complimentary plants help each other grow without your active participation. It is easy to care for the plants knowing they are taking good care of each other as well!

Best for “Landless” Areas

As mentioned previously, this is one of the most important benefits of companion container gardening. If you are living in a flat, apartment, condo or some other accommodation facility where “land” or “ground” is not available, this will work out best for you. You can enjoy fresh foods, the refreshing environment, as well as the scenic beauty it adds to your house.

On top of this, other advantages attached to this medium further enhance the viability of this project. So if gardening is your passion and there are a few limitations that are keeping you away from it, it is time to break all bounds and do what you like. Try companion container gardening – it works!

Container Gardening Basics



Now that you are on board with the idea of companion container gardening, it is time to get started.

On the whole, the concept is pretty simple and not very different from the traditional mode of gardening. Instead of the “boundless” ground, your plant is restricted to the container. But this doesn’t make a lot of difference as long as it is adequately cared for!

To facilitate understanding, we have broken down the concept of companion container gardening into its constituents. We will walk through the specifications of each so you have a better idea of how to go about it.

The things mentioned in the next few pages are those that are essential for the success of your gardening project. Once you have adequately prepared yourself – physically and mentally – you are good to get started!

The next section details a few pointers you need to keep in mind about your gardening project. The factors mentioned will play an important role with respect to container gardening.

In the end, you can sum up the two concepts easily and begin the rewarding journey towards your goals!

Selecting a Container



One of the first things you need to decide is which container you will use for your plant(s). You will come across a multitude of alternatives while searching for the one you need. You might even be tempted to buy a few that appear exceptionally appealing on the outside but are evidently not suitable for the plant you are hoping to cultivate.

This is where you need to be extremely critical of your choices. Make sure you have evaluated your choices in all possible ways before making the final decision!

The Size

The size of the container is pivotal to its purpose. If you are hoping to grow a plant that needs a lot of space for its roots to spread out, selecting a small container will be a bad choice.

Also, in case it is the other way around, you will end up wasting a lot of soil and fertilizer by not using the pot properly. The idea is to find the middle ground between the two extremes so you can make the most of your investment.

Another important consideration with respect to size is the space available for the pot wherever you intend to place it. Pots and containers come in a

wide variety of shapes, sizes and styles.

Circular pots are not always the perfect solution to your problem. At times, square shaped pots might prove to be a better option. It doesn't hurt being a little innovative and stylish about your container selection. After all, if you choose to place it in a central position in your home, the container will add as much visual appeal to its surroundings as does the plant!

The Material

Different materials can be used to make containers. Each of the materials has its own benefits and downsides. There is no singular best option for all plants – you will need to sift through the options yourself to find out which suits you the best.

Some of the popular options include:

1. **Cast Cement or Concrete Containers:** These will be heavier than most alternatives. Although they will be durable and will survive every weather condition, when and if the pot gets damaged it is likely to disintegrate to bits. Colors can be used to accentuate its beauty though regular repainting and maintenance will be required to keep it vibrant and fresh.



On the other hand, they are quite expensive. If you buy them cheap somehow, they are less likely to survive more than a few years. Apart from this, they seep lime which can discolor and damage the floor

underneath. In terms of water retention, however, you are likely to come across very few problems.

2. ***Terracotta Containers:*** These are the traditional clay pots that have been used for container gardening in the past. Using terracotta containers has its own pros and cons.

For instance, terracotta containers are capable of managing the air and water content of soil optimally, thereby promoting healthy plant growth. Moreover, they add a traditional look to their surroundings. On the whole, it is quite capable of breaking the monotony in style.



On the other hand, clay pots are prone to damage if not manufactured properly. If the pots are not well heated during the baking phase, they will break easily when used.

Also, the pots need to be soaked in water for some time before bringing it into use. This is done to ensure the pot does not absorb a lot of water when you water the plants later on.

Another major downside is the fact that terracotta containers spoil readily. The exterior of the pot will readily become stained with salts,

lime and mosses thereby deteriorating the overall look. You need to make an extra effort to keep the pot looking clean and impressive.



3. **Wooden Containers:** Comparably with cement and terracotta containers, wooden containers are likely to be lighter, mobile and affordable. They can be transformed into any shape as necessitated by the space. This leaves more room for innovation and improvisation.

Moreover, these can be painted and repainted to suit any color themes in the vicinity. In other words, this translates into the highest degree of customization that can be offered with respect to plant containers.



However, there are major downsides to this convenience. Wooden containers are significantly prone to rotting.

They are also quite ineffective in terms of water retention and hence more frequent watering will be required to provide for the plants'

water needs.

So if you are planning to use a wooden container, you need to be mentally prepared to buy another one within a year or two as most wooden containers do not last long.

Another way to go about this problem is to try lead-lined wooden containers – but be prepared to pay a few extra bucks!

4. **Glazed Pots:** These are similar to terracotta pots – except that they are painted and finished in an attractive manner. Glazed pots look impressive regardless of where they are placed. They also offer all of the benefits offered by terracotta plants in more or less the same way.



The downside is that they come in a wide variety of colors. So if you think about getting another glazed pot in the future with the same color, it is next to impossible to find the exact match.

They cannot be repainted according to the surroundings. Also, they are known for not surviving extreme variations of temperatures. You will need to provide extra protection to the glazed pot during freezing temperatures.

5. **Metal Containers:** Metal containers come in all shapes, sizes and varieties. If you are looking for some lightweight metal containers, you will be able to find them. Alternatively, if you are

searching for heavyweight or heavy metal containers, you will be able to find those too.

However, you will need to monitor the amount of water you give to the plants in such containers. If you are not careful, you might end up flooding the pot and paving the way for fungal growths.

On the downside, metal containers are prone to erosion and rust. They can dent easily if the quality of metal is not high.

Moreover, metal has the tendency to absorb heat and become unbearably hot – which, by the way, can damage your plant as well. If metals like copper and lead are used, the containers can become toxic and hence spoil your crops.

The shiny exterior of metal containers may become a source of sour criticism as well due to their striking resemblance with garbage cans. Nevertheless, if you like it, there should be nothing to stop you from having it!



6. **Plastic Containers:** They are light, cheap and durable. They can survive tough weather conditions without rotting or breaking. They popularly come in three colors – black, white and earth color.

Plastic containers are capable of fitting into a wide assortment of themes seamlessly. However, you need to invest in high quality plastic containers to be able to enjoy all these benefits.



As far as the downsides are concerned, the plastic container is non-porous. So you will need to regulate the water content in the soil manually. Flooding will encourage the growth of unwanted species like fungi and other pests.

Moreover, plastics are non-biodegradable and hence are not environment-friendly. Low quality plastics are likely to spoil, discolor or break and hence need to be avoided.



7. **Fiberglass Containers:** These are possibly the lightest of the lot. They can be molded into any shape and size. They are strong and durable and can therefore survive nominal “injuries.”

Moreover, they retain the colors more aggressively and vibrantly than plastics (or any other material for that matter). In some cases, fiberglass containers can be made to resemble the look of other materials.



The downside primarily includes the cost of purchasing such a container. Fiberglass containers are quite expensive depending on the size and shape/style you choose.

They are non-porous and will therefore pose a challenge with respect to moisture regulation in soil.

On top of this, if intentional “injury” is inflicted on it – for instance, the materials are scratched or exposed to harsh chemicals – the container will disintegrate. The fibers in the section will become damaged and the container will lose its stability.



These are some of the most popular materials used to make plant containers. You need to consider multiple factors before making the final decision.

For instance: Where will the pot/container be placed? Is it for indoor use or for outdoor use? What are the requirements of the plant you intend to grow? And so on and so forth.

Even if thorough evaluation fails to yield a decisive answer, try consulting other gardeners in your vicinity. The folks at the garden supplies store might also be able to help. The environmental conditions are also pivotal in making the selection so that it lasts longer.

The Drainage Concern

Plants need water for growing. At the same time, they do not like it when and if their roots are constantly dipped in water. If there is no drainage system in the container, it can lead to water logging and other problems associated with it.



For this reason, it is important for the container you choose to have holes at the bottom. This allows excess water to seep out of the soil, allowing the roots to breathe. This also minimizes the possibility of fungal outgrowths in the stagnant water which can affect the plant's development.

Another important concern in this regard is the number and size of holes present at the bottom of the container. If the holes are too small or too few, they will not allow enough water to escape and hence will not be able to help with the situation of water logging.

You might need to drill in a few holes yourself to make sure your plant can thrive without drowning.

Secondly, since holes will definitely let out soil along with water, it is a good idea to add in a few rocks at the bottom. This will reduce spillage of soil while contributing towards the outflow of water. In other words, this will help keep the floor underneath the container relatively clean.

On this note, using pot trays or elevated pot feet is a good idea. This will ensure there is no blockage while the water drains while also keeping the area clean. Consequently, less effort is required to maintain your container garden area.

Preparing the Container

Once you have selected the container, the next step is to prepare it for plantation. It is quite similar to the traditional method of preparing the ground for planting seeds or seedlings. However, there are a couple of preliminary checks you need to make before putting the container to use.



First and foremost, the container should be aligned with its purpose. By this, we mean it should be the right size with proper drainage. If you focus entirely on the looks instead of its utility, you might end up selecting the wrong container.

The next step is to make sure it is safe for the plants.

Any pots used to previously stock toxic materials should not be used for plants unless they have been cleaned and sterilized thoroughly. In fact, it will be a good idea to clean the container thoroughly before use – regardless of whether it was used to stock toxic materials or not!

While cleaning, keep an eye out for dents, unintentional holes or any other similar damage. Patch up these openings before bringing it into use to prevent nasty disasters. You definitely do not want to wake up one day to see the container has disintegrated and the soil is sprawled across the room.

If the damage is substantial – for instance, there is a crack across the middle of the container – it will be a good idea to get another container instead.

Following these important tips, here is what needs to be done next:

Soil



Plants have unique soil requirements. Some plants grow well in nitrogen-rich fertilizer-based soils while some others work well when the constituents are well-balanced. According to the requirements of your plant, you will need to prepare the container.

Keep in mind that your plant's roots need some air as well. Try not to put in too much soil in the container or to press it together tightly. You need to scramble and shift the soil a few times to make sure there is ample air in it. You might need to do so again after some time because constant watering will fill in the spaces.

There are quite a few varieties of fertilizer mixes available in the market. Choose the one which suits your plant in the best manner. Also, replenish the soil every once in a while. You can use liquid fertilizers or nutrition to do so. Your plant gains all its nutrition from the soil – if there isn't any from the soil, it will ultimately begin to affect your plant's health.

Placement

Some plants like cool, shady areas, others like bright, sunny spots. The placement of the container is crucial to the growth of your plant. Be choosy and wise about making this decision as it will impact the development of your plant directly.

Usually, balconies or terraces work best with container plants. They remain under direct supervision while also getting their requirements fulfilled. So if the plants begin to wilt or show some other signs of decline, they are immediately noticed and rectified. Moreover, these areas experience ample sunlight – at times even more than other parts of the house.

But the last decisive factor of the plant's placement is its own needs. If you are planning to grow an indoor plant, it is best placed in a good location within the house and away from the external environment.

Make sure you have researched thoroughly about the plant you are planning to grow so you can avoid unnecessary heartbreak!

What is So Different?

In a nutshell, nothing is really *that* different. It is not as though container plants are capable of being grown without soil or without water. The needs of the plants are the same irrespective of where or how they are grown. The only thing different about container gardening is that there is limited space.

You just need to improvise a little to make sure your plants thrive as much as they would if they were sown directly in the ground. As long as all your plants' requirements are met, rest assured they will not really realize whether they are being grown in a container or not!

It isn't very difficult and most first-time gardeners can get it right the first time around. However, if for some reason you are not able to see the results you hoped for, do not despair.

Try again and look for errors you might have made. If required, seek professional advice from a local gardener. You will eventually succeed with better knowledge about how these things work and the ways in which you can make them successful!

Companion Gardening Basics



Companion gardening is the art of planting two or more plants together that are not only complimentary, but also help each other in development.

However, it is important to keep in mind that this setting is not achieved by chance or by *your* effort. It largely depends on the plants you choose. Every combination does not work out. Make sure you have done your homework well before trying companion gardening.

This section will talk in detail about companion gardening – what it is, how it works and everything you need to keep in mind before indulging in it.

So keep reading to find out everything that you need to know about companion gardening.

Understanding the Mutually Beneficial Relationship

There are over 315 thousand different species of plants existing in nature! Each species is unique and exclusive.

Moreover, each plant has its own mechanism of survival. This is one reason why you can find complimentary plants – the by-product of one plant is used as the raw material for another.

Even if this is not the case, there are certain features of one plant that helps the other grow and vice versa.



For instance, tomatoes are known to grow well when companioned with basil.

Basil naturally repels insects and diseases, thereby promoting the growth of tomatoes. Also, in this situation, you will be able to observe a significant (positive) difference in the taste of tomatoes. This is basil's influence to promote the well-being of tomatoes.

So you can enjoy larger, tastier and better quality tomatoes – simply by planting basil next to it!

This same relationship can be seen between tomatoes and roses as well. In this situation, the tomatoes protect roses from fungal outgrowths and black spots. Such complimentary properties can be seen for a wide number of plant species.

However, in some cases, the combination may backfire.

Tomatoes do not go well with the cabbage family. The latter disrupts the natural growth of tomatoes and stunts them, hence proving to be a bad companion.

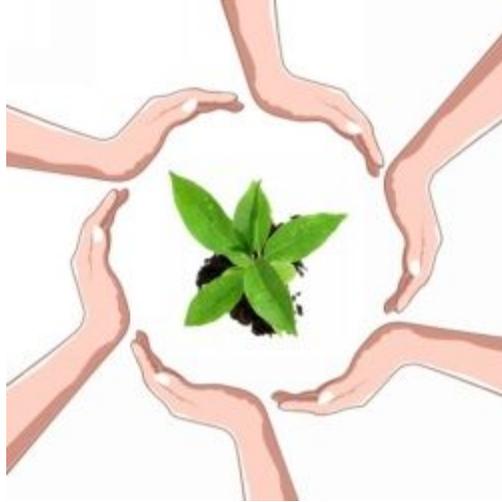
This is enough to substantiate how the phenomenon works. Consequently, you need to be extra careful in making the decision about which plants to grow together.

The following few sections will brief you about most of the possible (and easy) combinations you can select. Keep reading to find out everything about it.

How to Group Plants?

As emphasized previously, you need complimentary plants when opting for companion gardening. If the plants don't go along with each other well, it will most surely end up in a disaster you'll remember for life.

And it isn't really encouraging to look back over a failed project.



This section will guide you through the grouping process and how it is done. There is also a readymade list of possible companions you can use for your companion container gardening adventure.

If anything, it gets easier beyond this point!



How to group plants? The easiest answer to this question is that you need plants with similar requirements grown in the same region. There are three

crucial factors you need to take into consideration while grouping plants:

The plants need to have identical water requirements because when you are watering the plants, it is virtually impossible to let one plant receive more water than the other.



Besides this, their watering frequency should be identical as well.

If you are watering the container more than once in a day, be warned you won't be able to keep any one side of the pot dry –unless, of course, if the pot is too big! Both should have the same watering cycles and needs for best results.

The second thing to consider is the placement.



As mentioned previously, some plants grow well in broad sunlight while some prefer shady areas.

You might want to try placing the container in some place where half of the pot receives full sunlight while the remaining half stays in shade. But more often than not, such a setting will backfire. It is best to select plants that have similar requirements so that the container can be placed accordingly indoors or outdoors.

Lastly and most importantly, the soil requirements of both plants need to be identical as well.



If one plant needs nitrogen-rich soil while the other grows well in mulch, one of the two will take the brunt depending upon what you decide to put inside the pot.



These factors are crucial to the companionship. Also, as the space is shared, these factors will immediately impact the yield, depicting effects from day one. If you have figured out this part of the equation well, sorting through the result will not be much of a challenge.

Which Ones Go with Which?

Here is a list of common plant companions that go along well with each other.

However, if there is a particular combination of your own you would like to pursue, make sure you have researched both plants thoroughly before putting them in the same container. The rest will come along on its own.

1. *Asparagus:*



If you are trying to plant asparagus, you can try planting it alongside tomatoes, parsley and basil. As such, asparagus foes have not been identified. Asparagus works well alongside most vegetables and crops.

2. *Beans:*



Beans go along well with most vegetables and herbal plants. If you are looking for some particularly spectacular produce, try planting it with corn, squash, potatoes or cabbage.

On this note, avoid planting it near beet roots or onions. These will definitely damage the growth of beans given their “underground fruit” property.

3. *The Cabbage family:*



These include cabbage, cauliflower, radish and other similar leafy crops that demand nitrogen-rich soil for growing. These go well with aromatic herbs, spinach, chard, cucumber, potatoes, beets, celery and a few other plants.

However, planting them near strawberries, tomatoes, peas or dill can yield undesirable results.

4. *Carrots:*



Carrots are underground fruits. They are known to go well alongside onions, chives, shallots, beans, leeks and lettuce but not so well when planted along with tomatoes, radish, parsnip and dill.

If planted with unfriendly companions, the carrot yield will include small, stunted vegetables. However, they might be more flavorful than regular ones – especially when grown alongside tomatoes.

So basically, the decision is yours – whether you would like an impressive-looking produce or a good-tasting one.

5. ***Celery:***



Celery plants grow well when planted alongside onions, cabbage, tomatoes and beans. There are no particular adverse companionships observed for celery as yet.

However, if you find the celery plants not growing well alongside certain plants, it is best not to try doing so again – the chances that they aren't compatible are quite substantial.

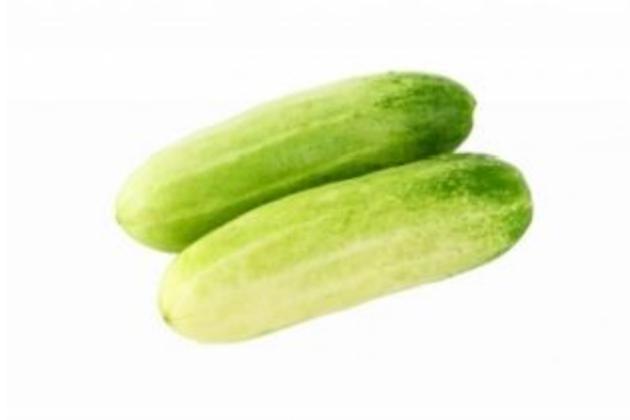
6. ***Corn:***



These flavorful crops are known to grow well in the vicinity of potatoes, beans, peas, cucumber, squash and pumpkin.

However, it is best not to grow corns in the same vicinity as tomatoes. The roots of tomato plants spread over a large area, suppressing the growth of most other plants including corns.

7. ***Cucumber:***



Cucumber is one of the easiest vegetables to grow. It grows well alongside beans, corns, peas, sunflower and radish. However, planting cucumbers alongside aromatic herbs and potatoes is strongly not recommended.

8. ***Lettuce:***



Lettuce is an amiable vegetable that grows well with most other vegetables. However, if you are looking forward to improving the quality of lettuce, try planting it alongside carrot, radish, cucumber or strawberries.

You will notice a distinctive improvement in flavor as well as the quality of the leaves.

9. *The Onion Family:*



There are quite a few types of onions that are grown in different parts of the world. This category includes onions, shallots, green onions, as well as garlic and leeks. This categorization is basically made on the basis of similar soil requirements of these crops. All the aforementioned vegetables classified in this family need soil rich in organic matter to grow well.

They grow well in the vicinity of beet roots, carrots, lettuce, the cabbage family (mentioned previously) and a few other crops.

However, growing them near beans and peas is not recommended for obvious reasons!

10. *Peas:*



If you are planning to grow peas, try to grow them nearby carrots, radish, turnips, cucumber, corn and beans.

In fact, peas go along exceptionally well with beans. Their requirements in terms of soil, water and environment is more or less identical.

However, their combination with the onion family or the potatoes may not be that victorious.

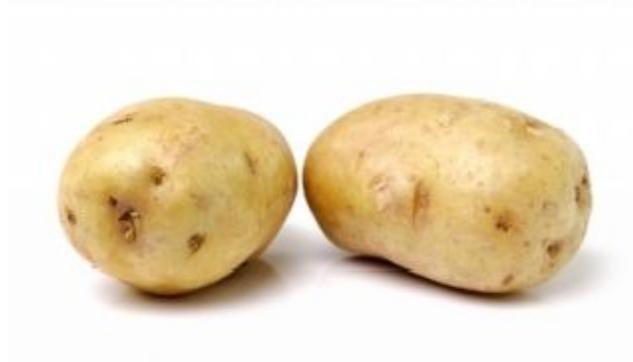
11. *Peppers:*



There is nothing comparable with homegrown chili peppers. Their flavor tends to be significantly better than commercially-grown peppers. When planting these, try planting them near carrots and onions.

However, note that they don't grow well with tomatoes or eggplants. Whenever an unfriendly combination is followed, the risk of damage due to plant diseases and pest is elevated.

12. *Potatoes:*



Potatoes are sweet underground fruit crops. They go along well with beans, corns, cabbage family and a few other plants. However, avoid planting them near pumpkins, squash, tomatoes, sunflowers or cucumbers for best results.

13. *Pumpkins:*



This Halloween fruit grows exceptionally well alongside corn and marigolds. Avoid planting it near potatoes to maintain the high quality and tasteful flavor of the fruit.

14. *Radish:*



Radish grows well with peas, lettuce and cucumber. These crops help in enhancing the flavor of radish naturally and appreciably. However, avoid planting it near herbal plants. Other than that, radish is quite friendly with most vegetables and crops.

15. *Spinach:*



Spinach grows well when planted alongside strawberry and beans. Potential foes have not been diagnosed so far. However, if they apparently do not seem to be growing well with some particular companions (for instance, potatoes), try not to repeat the combination.

16. *Tomatoes:*



The case of tomatoes is rather detailed and complicated. It is significantly different from other crops. The combinations with tomatoes are pretty tricky, especially because the time of plantation is also crucial to companion container gardening success.

We would recommend you to try companion gardening with tomatoes only when you have had significant hands-on experience handling tomatoes alone.

This will help you in identifying problems as well as in keeping an eye on possible signs of damage. Although planting tomatoes is not exactly difficult, losing the produce due to plant diseases or pests is definitely heartbreaking.

You can plant tomatoes with borage, chives, marigolds, basil, calendula, carrots, peppers, sage, onions, garlic, lettuce, peas, asparagus, cucumber, parsley and a few other plants. Keep in mind that these combinations will yield positive results for tomatoes.

However, the same cannot be said for the plants that are companioned with tomatoes. The aforementioned plants have repellent properties and can therefore ward off several plant and pest problems for tomatoes. In return, they will not grow as effectively as you would like them to.

This cause and effect relationship is exceptionally pronounced in the case of peppers and carrots. If these are the plants you have in mind, it is best to look for companions that work well with these instead of tomatoes.

These are just some of the well-known combinations that are known to succeed. However, these are not the only ones that work. You can experiment with your own combinations to see how it works out for you.

Do research thoroughly about each plant's requirements beforehand to make sure they are complimentary. Also, always be mentally prepared for the experiment to go wrong at any point.

Even with perfectly complimentary characteristics, it is possible for the produce to get affected. This is more commonly observed whenever an extremely strong-flavored or strong-scented plant is companioned with a not-so-strong-scented-or-flavored counterpart.

You will get the gist of companion gardening with time. There is no learning if there are no failures involved. However, for the beginning phase, it is best to stick with the aforementioned combinations. This will motivate you towards bigger experiments – and consequently successes.

Developing Themes

Growing vegetables and crops in the same container is a lot trickier than cultivating herbs and flowers in the same pot. There are little, if at all, complications in the latter case.

Most herbs and flowers can be grown together with little consideration to any limiting factors. This also offers a wide range of opportunities for you to experiment with the plantations.

You can work around themes for your companion container gardening. Most herbal plants and flowers have exotic colors that you can mix and match with a few others to complete the look.

Even if you would like to stick with a single color, the different shapes and sizes of different species can add a special twist to your decorations.



You can use color cards to help you choose which herbs or flowers you would like to plant together. Do keep in mind that the color of the flowers is not the only color exhibited by the plant – the color of the foliage is equally evident.

All greens are not the same – you will find quite a diverse variety of green colors if you look closely at a few plant species. The greens need to be contrasted as well while developing themes for the companion container plants.

There are five very popular themes employed by most people. You can try out your own combinations or borrow some from the existing ones. In the end, it is all about personal choices and making personal aesthetic statements.

1. The “cool” theme: This involves putting together plants that have blue and purple blooms. It emits a soothing effect on the onlookers. The blues contrast perfectly against the purple flowers.



You can use such an arrangement on your coffee table as well as the dining table (provided the requirements of the plants are not compromised) to make a spectacular natural decoration piece.

However, keep in mind such flowers are usually seasonal. So you will need to think of something else to replace such an arrangement once the current plants are through with their useful life.

If you are not looking for such frequent changes, then you need to select the plants carefully to make sure they live long.

2. The “warm” theme: The first thing that comes to the mind when the word “warm” is mentioned is “fire” – the flickering flames emitting vibrant reds, oranges and yellows that slowly engulf the object placed in it. It is a spectacle to watch.

However, with respect to the topic here, the warm theme uses the mentioned color combinations to achieve the “fiery” effect.



Those plants with yellow, orange or red blooms are planted together. The result is a bright colored natural flower arrangement. It complements the summer season perfectly.

However, you can try following the same theme with winter flowers as well. This will add a burst of life to your indoor arrangement if you choose to place it so.

3. The “feminine” taste: The theme itself is quite expressive. Contrast pinks with purples and you have the perfect blend of flowers that can melt any girl’s heart away.

They give a distinctive fragile impression on the onlookers. Although labeling such a combination is more or less sexist, the pinks have stayed more popular with females as compared to males.



The same problem persists as with the previous two themes – it is difficult to make such an arrangement survive years at a stretch.

However, they will work rather perfectly if you are planning to gift such an arrangement or using it to lighten up the mood in your bedroom, drawing room or other indoor places.

4. The “White” beauty: This is one color that seems to work with almost every other color in the whole wide world. At the same

time, it looks rather magnanimous when it is considered alone. You can try it with combinations or plant the white ones alone. In either case, the result is likely to be breath taking!



5. The “crazy” combos: There are quite a few combinations that might not sound too good but work amazingly when placed together.

Try planting the pinks besides oranges.

Or try combining purples with reds and oranges.

The results of both these combinations are likely to be pretty exotic!

This also means you can experiment with quite a few options – there are practically boundless opportunities this end!

This is where you can put your aesthetic sense to test and bring out the best in you. Let your creative instincts go wild as you experiment with exotic combinations.

Once you have planted the seeds/seedlings and the plants have begun to adjust to their new “home,” rest assured it will get easier and rewarding from this point onwards.

A little effort made prior to this point will help in improving the outcome. So are you willing to invest in a little extra for something so amazingly chic and classic?!

Mistakes You Should Avoid

There are several reasons that contribute towards failing of gardening projects. More often, the culprit you believe to have caused the disaster is not really to be blamed.

Quite a few pieces need to fall perfectly into place for the gardening adventure to become successful. While the professional or seasoned gardeners can get it right almost every time, the beginners or learners might need to spend some time learning and failing at the art before it begins to yield the desired results.

Here are some of the most common mistakes people make with their first experiences at gardening. Keep a close eye on these and you will be able to improve your odds considerably.

1. Not researching enough.



As stated previously, there are over 315 thousand different species of plants – each of these has different needs. Just selecting the plants randomly and putting them together in a pot/container isn't likely to yield the results you are hoping for. You need to be very lucky for such an arrangement to work.

Make sure you have researched about the requirements of each plant that you decide to grow.

Preferably, try growing the plant alone first before trying to move forward with companion container gardening.

Also, look for references and testimonials to help you decide whether the combination you are planning to try out actually works or not. If you are lucky, you might come across someone's anecdote saying how it works or does not work.

Do not shy away from consulting your local gardener or commercial farmer. They might have some valuable advice to share that can save you from a pile of unnecessary troubles.

2. Not choosing the container wisely.



Companion container gardening aims to put two plants together in a container – but not in the space of one!

Each plant needs space to spread out their roots. If you are going to try planting multiple seedlings in a small pot, it will definitely create competition between the plants. The end result will be far from what you hoped for.

While selecting the pot, be foresighted. Anticipate the growth of the plants – they will not remain seedlings forever – and make your purchase accordingly.



Even if you have a fair idea about the combined needs of your plants, purchase one that is a size or two bigger than the minimum required. If you are purchasing good quality containers, you will not be getting rid of them any time soon. And if you plan to experiment with some other combinations later on, the size might become painfully small. Always plan ahead – because whatever you have in mind right now is more or less temporary (or seasonal).

3. Inappropriate prioritizing.



You need to set your priorities right before you work on your companion container gardening experiment.

Do you really want to place the pot indoors or are you looking for those plants that grow well in the open?

If the former option is your priority, then look for plants that grow well indoors. If the latter is what is on your mind, then make place for your containers accordingly.

Firstly, identify your priorities and then set them right. Once you are through with this, then you can move forward with selections and plantations.

If you try to grow peppers or tomatoes indoors, it will most probably end up in a massive failure. You need to get things synchronized so that the situation is perfectly complimentary.

4. Non-native plants. Even if you like growing a specific plant species, the plants will not necessarily reciprocate your emotions the same way by growing well, especially if they are non-native.



Every plant has requirements of its own which, if not met, will result in wilting plants and spoilt produce. It is best to stick with local plants that are tried and tested and known to grow well in the local environmental conditions. You do not want to be discouraged by an experiment gone wrong – especially in the beginning! So it is better to play safe.

5. Not knowing when to stop watering.



Every plant has specific water needs. Some like to be soaked ‘round the clock while some work best if they are watered at distant intervals. It is the way it is! Inability to follow the rules will most definitely lead towards despair.

Research the plant thoroughly so you know what it needs or what it doesn’t like. Also, try companion gardening with plants that have similar watering requirements for best results.

6. Stuffing in too much soil.



Soil is good for the plant – it is one of the essential sources of nutrition. But putting in too much soil will not help. In fact, in most cases, pressing soil too tightly together will leave no space for air or light penetration and eventually lead to a failed experiment. Make sure you mix the soil frequently – even watering can “fill-in” the gaps in soil.

As a matter of fact, have you seen how the plants grow in the ground? There are numerous spaces in the soil naturally to provide for the plants’ requirements. The thing is – it should be no different for the container!

Remember, a lot of pieces need to fall precisely in place for the project to succeed!

7. Not replenishing nutrients in the soil.



There is limited space in the container for the plants' roots to spread out and absorb nutrients. This is also the reason why the plant nutrients in the soil deplete so fast

If you are pursuing companion container gardening, it is important to replenish this source of nutrients regularly so that your plant can grow well. Otherwise, notable signs of deterioration will begin to surface.

There is a wide range of plant food and liquid fertilizer solutions available in the market. Consult a local gardener or specialist before using any particular product – there might be a product more suitable for your plant.

Set a frequency – an interval – at which the soil's nutrients will be replenished for best results.

8. Not knowing what to do and when.



For a successful gardening experience, you need to know how the first signs of damage surface, when is the produce ready for consumption and when is the plant nearing its end.

Gardening is a time-sensitive project. Not only is the time imperative with respect to seeding and sowing plants but also with respect to cultivation.

Most of this information can be obtained through thorough research. If you are looking in the right places, you will get the right resources you need for successful companion container gardening projects.

It is important for you never to lose hope or simply quit the exercise because it doesn't seem to be working well. Even if the first time is not as successful as you hoped it to be, rest assured the next one will be much better off.

You need patience and perseverance for the idea to work out for you. No one can guarantee you it is an easy feat. In fact, getting a hold of the techniques and learning the art is the most challenging part of the story. And if you quit midway, there is no possible way you can reach the other end!



If you have got the right attitude, then success is just around the corner!

Companion Planting with Herbs – is it Possible?



Herbs are almost like other plants – except that their fruits/flowers and leaves are have certain specific medicinal properties. These characteristics make herbs highly desirable among nature enthusiasts. It is not only about the physical appeal but also about the chemical composition which makes them highly likeable.

Most herbs can be grown easily in any part of the world. They have minimal out-of-the-ordinary requirements. Even though most herbs are not exactly flavorful or exciting for the taste buds, they do make an awesome addition to your personal garden space.



The flowers of most herbal plants possess exotic colors that are worth planting. They add a colorful twist to the garden space with their vibrant flowers shining out from the crowd of greens. Everyone likes a few warm colors here and there, don't they?! So why not cultivate herbal plants?



Unlike seasonal flowers, the herbal plants (and their flowers) stay fresh for a long time. They are likely to bloom repeatedly until the time the climate becomes intolerably extreme for them. This implies a significantly longer time period as compared with most other blooms. You can even dry the herbal plants – usually flowers – and preserve them in fancy bottles to serve as your table decorations. With herbal plants, there is a plethora of unexplored potential and possibilities!



So can companion container gardening be practiced with herbs? The answer is yes. There are a number of ways you can look at the situation at hand.

Firstly, given that herbs are no different from most other plants, there is no reason why they should be classified as something unique or alien. They are cultivated in soil, need to be watered periodically and require sunlight like every other plant. They can be grown in containers and, hence, can definitely be companioned with other plants very easily. There is no dispute at this end.



Secondly, as hinted previously, certain herbs have the capacity to improve the produce of other plants – both in terms of quality and quantity – if they are planted near them. At times, they may serve as natural flavor enhancers as well. It will not be inappropriate to say the herbs have magical influences on other plants.

Likewise, if you are growing herbs together with certain specific plants in the same container – companion container gardening – you are likely to see a positive outcome.

In fact, if you follow the companion guidelines provided earlier in this eBook, you can initiate your own companion container garden full of exotic plant species that are healthy, high quality and absolutely organic! Multiple benefits at the cost of one!



Companion container gardening with herbs is not a problem. In fact, it is encouraged that you follow this scheme for better results. So are you up for it?!

Caring for the Plants



Like pets, you need to care for your plants and groom them in order to keep them growing happily and healthily. A lot needs to be done – from making sure all requirements are being met to ensuring it looks presentable and clean. A messy looking garden space will only lead to problems like pests, insects and others.

Here are a few things that you need to keep an eye on. If these are in order, the plant will definitely thrive. Most of it circulates around the basic necessities. So here it goes:

Choosing Fertilizers



If you haven't been to a greenhouse or a plant specialty mart yet, it is about time you made the visit. When it comes to fertilizers, there is an astounding variety available in the market place. As opposed to popular belief, all fertilizers do not work the same way and cannot be applied to the soil similarly.

There are more than a dozen alternatives that can be broadly categorized under three headings. Keep reading to find out everything about them!

1. Chemical fertilizers

These fertilizers are artificially produced by mixing together the essential nutrients of fertilizers – nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. This combination is also known as NPK. The elements are mixed together in certain man-prescribed proportions.



When added to the soil, this type of fertilizer readily releases its nutrients so it is available for the plant. However, this also means the utility of chemical fertilizers is lost readily. It is therefore imperative to replenish these reserves repeatedly in order to ensure a steady supply of nutrients for the plant.

This is also contrary to the underlying principle of fertilizer usage. Ideally, a fertilizer should be such that it releases the nutrients slowly and progressively, coordinated with the growth of the plant.



Another reason why chemical fertilizers are not encouraged is because it promotes unnatural and fast growth of the plants. The time it takes for the fruit to mature fully is shortened, hence resulting in

low quality produce. The taste is spoiled even though the size of the fruit reaches industry benchmarks.

Chemical fertilizers are not organic and hence are known to lead to several health complications over prolonged usage. Especially in home gardening, the use of chemical fertilizers is strictly not recommended. There is special handling procedures involved owing to its chemical nature. So it is better to consider other alternatives.

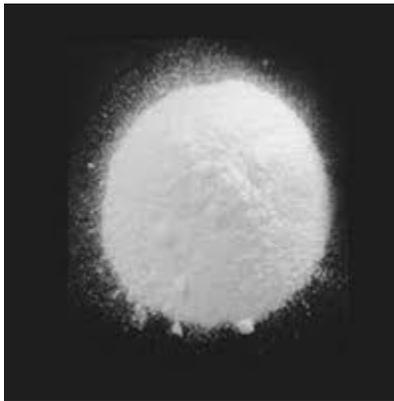


2. Processed Fertilizers

These fertilizers are partially organic because the raw materials used to make them come from nature. However, the processing it is put through extracts important nutrients from the input materials and creates unused and unnecessary by-products.



The most commonly used ingredients include bone meal, blood meal, fish meal, feather meal, cottonseed meal, bat guano, compost and others. All of these ingredients are rich in Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium and therefore prove to be viable alternatives.



But, as with chemical fertilizer, the nutrient release is faster than required. So it needs to be replenished regularly. Nevertheless, they are a much better alternative than chemical fertilizer.

3. Organic fertilizer

This is the right kind of fertilizer that most plants need. The nutrients are not selectively extracted or mixed in organic fertilizers – rather, it is a combination put forth by nature which works for most plants.



The source of organic fertilizer is natural – usually cow dung and other animal fecal matter. The release of nutrients is slow and gradual. For this reason, it is the ideal choice for most gardeners.

Organic fertilizers promote healthy growth of the plant. The plant produce is free from all traces of chemicals and hence is regarded as a healthy alternative to those fruits and vegetables that are commercially produced – usually in chemical fertilizers.

Even though the size may not be as impressive, it is usually more tasty and colorful than its commercial counterpart. So if health is one of your concerns, using organic fertilizers is your best chance.

The amount and timing of fertilizer addition is imperative to your plants' growth (considering you have opted for companion container gardening). Make sure you have researched about your choices thoroughly to know what you should use.

Watering Concerns



Too much or too little water is equally detrimental for your plants. You need to figure out a good medium to ensure none of the aforementioned conditions are likely to occur. This would usually mean watering in small quantities more frequently – like twice or thrice in a day.

You should check the soil before adding water to it. This ensures you do not end up overwatering your plants. Some professionals like to lift the container to see how much it weighs when it is dry and when it is sufficiently moistened – so you can add water accordingly.

Also, especially as a beginner, you should keep in mind that watering the leaves is practically of no use. It is the plant roots that need and absorb water. So naturally this is the part that should be watered regularly. At times, watering the leaves can actually promote the growth of plant diseases and fungal infections.



The time you decide to water the plants is also crucial for its health. For instance, if you water the plants around midday when the sun is at its peak, it is less likely to be of any use. Instead, it will contribute towards the plants' deterioration. Ideally, you should water the plants early in the morning or a little before the sun sets.

Take the weather into consideration while determining the amount and frequency of water for your plants. If it is hot and there is no insulation for water evaporating from the surface, you will need to water more often. Consequently, cooler weather demands less frequent watering.



Remember, the idea is to strike a balance between two extremes for optimal plant growth!

Is the Light Alright?



Different species have different requirements pertaining to their light needs. Some like the full sun while some others like shady areas. Also, some like longer days and shorter nights while the contrary stays true for others. There is no generic solution to this – you need to research about the plants' individual needs in order to facilitate their growth.

The natural sunlight, by far, has no alternative. Plants grow best when they are exposed to the natural conditions. However, if you live in a place where sunlight shines for short periods or is largely unreliable – may be due to cloudy climates – the requirement can be met artificially.

There is a wide assortment of “plant grow lights” available in the market that acts like the natural one. These special lighting instruments emit specific wavelengths that mimic natural sunlight. For plants that like the full sun, the plant grow lights produce high light levels. So the plant cannot really tell the difference.



For certain plants – usually comprising the flowering species – there needs to be an antagonistic light setting to promote bloom. You can set the plant grow lights on intervals or switch them on and off manually to mimic day and night.

There is no quantitative indicator of how much light is needed by your plants. Yet again, this part of the mystery can be resolved only through research.

However, you might be able to witness certain qualitative differences – in the form of wilting, discoloring etc. – that can explain if you are doing it right or not. Even so, you will need to go through a long list of possible causes before short listing whether it is really the sunlight or some other factor in action causing the problem.

Harvesting the Produce



If you have done it right, there will come a time when you will be able to enjoy the fruits of your efforts – finally! The harvest time is when you will be separating the fruits from their plants and consuming them – either raw or with some seasoning. This is when your efforts truly pay-off!

Usually, it is recommended to use a pair of garden shears (like the one shown in the image above) to go about the harvesting phase. Most fruits – when pulled off from the plant – tend to damage them so there is no further produce. Most fruit-bearing plants are capable of delivering multiple batches before embracing their natural demise. It is therefore best to use sharp tools for the purpose.

Moreover, for most fruit and vegetable plants, it is advised to “pinch off” the first fruit that it bears. This is done to improve the quality of further produce. The first fruits begin to appear well before the plant has matured. The energy resources of the plant get directed to the fruits instead of its personal growth. Consequently, the produce is affected. So if you are looking for high quality fruits and vegetables right from your garden, it is best to pinch off the first fruits.

Tips and Tricks to Enhance Results



It is very easy for a companion container gardening experiment to go wrong. There are quite a few factors that can contribute towards it. If you are not careful about your gardening choices, it will ultimately lead you toward disasters!

There is a lot you can do to improve your home produce. Here are a few things you should be careful about to ensure success of your gardening experiments. These are the places where most people go wrong. If you have these aspects in order, you can improve the odds up to 90%!

Where Do Most People Go Wrong?

Companion container gardening is slightly more tricky than traditional gardening. When you are trying to grow two plants close together, it is definitely different from the traditional model. This is one place where most people go wrong.



People fail to distinguish between the different needs of companion container gardening. They fail to realize that the individual requirements of the plants are more or less the same. Putting multiple plants in the same container does not diminish their basic requirements in any way. And when this is not the case, then it is wrong to imagine the plants can survive without ample space.

Another important reason why companion container gardening projects fail is because people do not see what the plants need and at what time.

For instance, most people are commonly misled into believing their plants can survive a week without watering. This is usually the result of unplanned (or even planned) vacation trips. Admittedly the right choice of container and fertilizer can help the plant retain moisture – but it is never really sufficient to last a week.



It is best to have someone water the plants for you while you are away. Regardless of how big the reservoir of your container is rest assured it becomes depleted readily if not replenished regularly.

Do your plants a favor and keep them healthily watered. You can ask for a friendly favor from the neighborhood. If this isn't possible, help your plants find a temporary refuge elsewhere to keep them safe and alive!

Besides this, some people may face difficulties in identifying the onset of an infestation. Most plants are prone to a number of problems and infestations. Most of these usually begin to emit subtle signs before gaining strength and unfolding in full force.



A timely diagnosis and inspection can save you from a major heartbreak later on. Being wholly negligent about it doesn't help either. Make sure you research about the potential problems of your plants before indulging head-on.

Also, keep your defenses up. Wherever applicable, spray appropriate insecticides and pesticides on your plants to protect them. In case you cannot use such chemicals – as on plants that are consumed in the raw form – try using emulsions of certain organic ingredients that are known to do the trick.

In the end, keep in mind that spoiled produce is not fit for consumption. Whether it has been spoiled due to plant diseases or has been feasted upon by some nasty predators, the produce is lost. Learn to identify the signs in a timely fashion so that the plague can be controlled.



In some cases, it is possible to rescue the produce if the problem is diagnosed. In others, regardless of when the problem is identified, the produce cannot be saved. Learn to distinguish between these two conditions as well so you don't end up wasting the plantation that could have been saved.

As long as all other requirements of the plant are being met in the best possible manner, there is little you need to worry about. Most plants are capable of adapting to situations well provided their basic needs are fulfilled.



If you pay adequate attention to detail, you will be able to improve the quality and quantity of your produce substantially. Think of them as your own offspring and care for them likewise – it is impossible for the plants not to reciprocate your emotions in the same way!

All you need is the drive to make it happen and it will! So are you up for the challenge?

Uses of Companion Container Gardening



Once you get an idea about how it is done, you can easily put it to use in a number of ways! It is not only about access to the freshest and organically produced fruits and vegetables but also an easy way to prep up important areas of your house naturally. To know more about how this is done, read through the next few pages carefully.

Before you think about using companion container gardening for decoration, keep in mind a couple of things. Firstly, choose the plants carefully in order to match their personalities. If their natures don't match, your companion container gardening project will be headed off to its untimely demise.

Secondly, if you are planning to use it for decoration, pay special attention to its color theme. You do not want flowers with odd non-complimentary colors sticking out of a pot. Develop a theme in which the flowers complete the look. Keep in mind the image of the pot once the flowers are in full bloom and plan accordingly. If it is supposed to beautify your area, then so be it!



Be wise about choosing the pot as well. Because it is the second most evident part of your companion container gardening project. If it is to be placed in a central location or at a height, use decorative containers to add a twist!



Last but not the least – make sure none of your plants’ requirements are left unattended. If they are unable to receive their due share of light, water or other crucial factors, it will definitely take a toll.



Keep your plants healthy and well-trimmed – they are making an impression on your visitors even before you begin conversing!

Decorative Instincts



If you have the aesthetic sense of a nature lover, you will automatically realize what you need to do with your companion container gardening project.

It doesn't take as much time to realize how to best utilize its visual appeal. It just needs a vacant space and some arrangements to make sure the plants will fit in naturally.

Most plants have unparalleled appearances. Even the foliage of most plants is unique and adds to their attractiveness. There is no rocket science involved here.

So if you have the eye of an artist (even if you are not an artist by profession), you will be able to visualize how, where and why the placement of your project works best!

Here are a few ideas to help you navigate through the options to your goal. Remember, there are limits to their usage only to the extent that you would like them to. Explore the opportunities with companion container gardening and enjoy the sights – this is the real aim of this project!

Decorating Walkways



If there is a little patch of concrete leading up to your doorstep, you can use companion container gardening to add a beautiful zest to this space.

Walkways and corridors are ideal for such placements. For the most part, they are adequately equipped with the natural factors that promote plant growth. They also offer a unique experience.

Imagine walking through your regular corridor – except that it is lined with exotic flowers and beautiful plants. There is definitely a positive feel toward this. So what is stopping you from trying it out?



The good thing about companion container gardening is that it works just as well outdoors as it does indoors. So if you have some space around your house (for those living in bungalows and cottages) but you would rather not lodge the plants in the ground, companion container gardening is your easy escape. It cuts the maintenance efforts in half while giving you the same sense of ecstasy and achievement at successfully completing the project!

Decorating Balconies



It is the ideal decoration for your balcony. In fact, this is easily the first preference for most people living in apartments and flats. Not only does this placement have the perfect solution for atmosphere and sunlight, it also adds the much needed color and nature to your interiors.

Another major benefit of this setting is that it keeps indoor mess to a minimum. If you decide to place the containers indoors, you need to be prepared for water and dirt seepage as and when you accidentally overflow the container. Thus container plates become necessary.

However, in the case of balcony placements, this trouble is reduced to a bare minimum.

Decorating Small Rooms/Spaces



Small containers – especially those with flowers – can be used just about anywhere for decoration. It adds a touch of nature to boring places and uplifts the mood and feel of the area. Strategic locations can help you renovate your home without making any conscious or expensive effort in doing so.

Try placing the companion container gardening pot in the kitchen. The kitchen counter is an ideal place for it provided it is small and portable. Make sure there is a light source available nearby so that the plants can receive their daily nutrition without compromising on their health.

In places like these, light sources that mimic the sun are ideal. Just leave them on during the day and you will not need to worry about spoiling your plants. This comes in handy if your kitchen experiences comparative darkness even during the day.

If the container is large, you can place it on the floor where the counter ends. Nevertheless, the touch of green will make an impressive addition to

your kitchen. Besides, you can pick and use fresh herbs right from the plant with utmost ease! What else could you possibly ask for?!



These days, the trend of placing small plants in the washroom is also gaining popularity. It freshens up the environment in its own way. You can place the container near the sink or on the ground, either way it makes an impressive addition.

It will regulate the moisture content of your washroom naturally. So you will find it suffocating and humid less often.

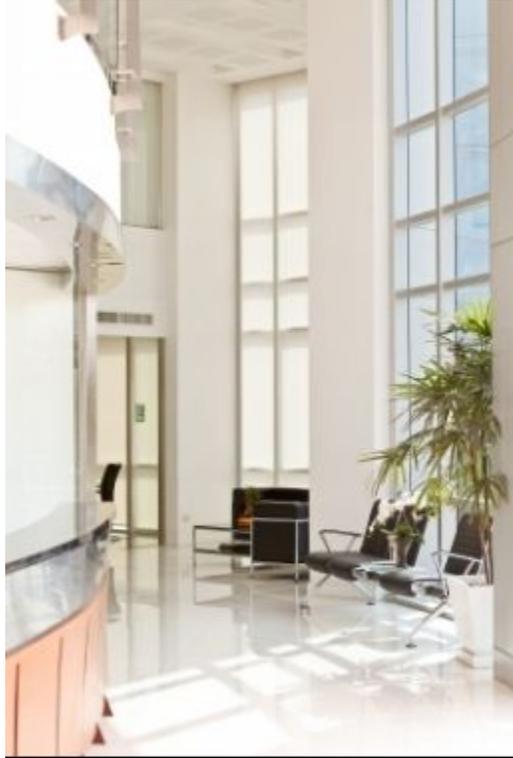
The moisture is absorbed by the soil to provide for the plants' nutrition. So while you get to experience better environment in this area of your house, the need for adding water to these plants is also diminished slightly. You still need to make sure your plants are receiving ample amounts of water and other basic necessities to help them grow well.

On the other hand, flowers with scents can also help eliminate the odors normal to the washroom. Instead of spraying air fresheners all the time, you can achieve the same result naturally. Choose those flowers that exhibit attractive scents as well as sights for a well-rounded impact. So what is the entire wait about?



Bedrooms are also one of those places where plants make an awesome addition. They help eliminate depression while adding a zing of their own. As with all other options, you can choose to place a plant on top of a table in your room or on the floor, no matter where, the result will be inspiring.

For bedrooms, it is recommended to use floral combinations instead of plants with foliage. Needless to say, flowers are an expression of love. Their colors and textures can play a pivotal role in reinstating emotional bonding between couples. If used intelligently, it can also save you quite a few dollars on purchasing new flowers each week!



Companion container gardening does not only work for the home environment but also the office environment. In fact, its importance and value is even more magnified in the latter case.

The office environment, for the most part, is boring, monotonous and stressful. Add in a few green decorations here and there and you will automatically see a difference in your employees' mood and productivity. Such is the power of nature!

If it seems too hard to believe, try it out for yourself! If you are employed in a place where greenery does not exist, try placing a small container on your personal desk with a variety or two. You will see a distinctive change in your mindset. Although, do take care not to over water the plant or else you would also witness your office work being spoilt by muddy waters from the container! This is the last thing you need on your office desk!



Your television lobby or drawing room can also do better with some refreshing decors. Add in a companion container gardening project in this setting and you will automatically feel a difference – not only in your own mood but also of your visitors’!

As with every other case, you need to be careful while watering the plant. The importance for proper watering is even more pronounced if you have carpet covering the floor. Water absorbed by the carpet is likely to initiate bigger problems like molding. Make sure you use a container plate to prevent such accidents.

Grow lights will work well in this case if this part of your house fails to receive adequate light. Just leave them on and it will not only help your plants to grow impressively, but will also keep the room lit up with a “soft” light emanating from the lamp.



In any case, dark rooms invite demons and all sorts of negative emotions. The best way to stay away from these is to have some kind of lighting arrangement that is just enough to eliminate total darkness – even if it doesn't light up the entire room.

You don't need to switch on the room lights – that is too much light! Small grow lights focused on your plants will work just fine!

It serves both purposes well, so be intelligent about your selections to reap the best out of your investments!



Plants in general have a soothing effect on your mind and body. They build an aura of healing and positivity around you. They help you heal your illnesses naturally. This is the primary reason why people usually carry a bouquet of flowers while visiting a patient in hospital.

Having plants around you can prevent you from falling ill and can also help you heal if you do. Having these plants in a place where you spend most of your time – like the living room – is therefore advisable.

Floral arrangements can uplift the mood and also freshen up the environment naturally. Nevertheless, plants with evident foliage work just as well.



These days it is virtually impossible to survive without the use of modern technological gadgets like smart phones and computers. Admittedly they offer an elevated sense of ease and convenience. At the same time, they are constantly encroaching upon your personal time making it more stressful to survive.

As mentioned previously, plants are natural stress relievers. Make sure you add them to places you usually occupy while working on computers and other gadgets. It does not only uplift the mood of the room but also exhibits positive energy for you. So you experience less stress while working.

You can use companion container gardening projects just about anywhere to add a special twist to the space. You just need to try it out once to fall in love with it!

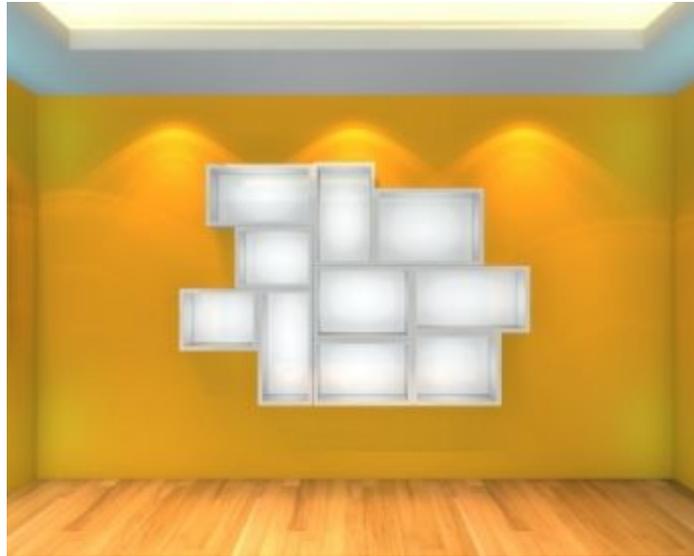
Changing the Styles Everyday!



There is an unparalleled benefit associated with companion container gardening projects – they are portable. So you can use them just about anywhere!

What is more, you can shift their positions and develop your own unique themes for the day everyday! You do not need to invest in heavy renovation efforts to give your homes and offices a new look. Simply swap the positions of your containers and see the magic happen! Although it doesn't hurt adding in a few new plants and containers at times!

If you've got three or four plants in your house, you can swap their locations to surprise your loved ones and any visitors to your place. It is surely startling to come home to a wholly different environment!



You can also try building your own “nature” shelf. It is just like any other shelf around your home except that each square holds a different companion container gardening project.

This is an innovative way of providing a landscape for your projects. You just need to swap the contents of the square to give it a new look. Moreover, this in itself is a decoration item. You can even try providing multitude of environments in the same shelf to add your own aesthetic twist.

Add such a shelf to your drawing room, living room or at an outdoor spot. It is a statement that says how much you love nature. Make sure you have your defenses up against water seepage, dust and pesticide attacks. The rest all should work fine!

Conclusion



Now you have you need to know about companion container gardening and how to turn this experiment into a successful project. If you follow the guidelines presented in here properly, there should be no reason why your project will fail.

From choosing plants wisely to the choice of containers and the subsequent factors that come into action to make your project successful – everything you need to know is contained in this eBook in ample detail. All you need to do is follow the instructions.

We wish you all the best for your companion container gardening projects. Keep in mind that if at any point you find your plants are not thriving despite having all their requirements fulfilled, do not delay in seeking advice from your local gardener. A problem identified well in time can save you from bigger problems later on.

All the best for your gardening adventures!