



Tucson
Organic
Gardeners

Soiling our hands since 1971

Plants as Deterrents

ABSINTHIUM: (Wormwood) a border around the planting area repels animals.

ALFALFA; most powerful of all legumes in nitrogen-fixers. Has deep roots, so cannot be used in caliche. Seeds ground up and used as a meal is a great compost stimulant, particularly for household garbage.

ALLIUMS: Latin for garlic. Vegetable alliums are: chives, garlic, leek, onion, and shallot. Plant ornamental alliums with roses to protect from aphids and moles.

ALOE VERA: The gel from inside of a stripped leaf may be mixed with water to make a spray for plants. Use straight for tree wound dressing. Insects are repelled by the bitter taste. Use powdered aloe to dust plants to repel rabbits, which must be repeated after a rain. The gel can also be put in water for chickens to drink to cure certain diseases.

AMARANTH: Good to grow with potatoes, BUT must be kept thinned or it will choke the potato plants. Also beneficial with corn and onions.

ASPARAGUS: Parsley planted with asparagus gives added vigor to both. Basil is a good companion for asparagus and tomatoes. Tomatoes will protect asparagus against the asparagus beetle. Make a spray from asparagus juice to kill tomato plant nematodes, including root-knot sting, stubby root and meadow nematodes.

ASTER: the poisonous woody aster (*Xylorhiza parryi*) indicates an alkaline soil.

BASIL: Since basil helps tomatoes to overcome both insects and disease and improves growth and flavor, grow it parallel to the tomatoes rather than among them. Basil also repels flies and mosquitoes. Basil and rue dislike each other intensely.

BAY: Bay (or laurel) leaves put in stored grains will eliminate weevils. Bay belongs to the same family as cinnamon, camphor, avocado and sassafras. Sassafras can also be used to control insects and weevils.

BEANS: Beans can be interplanted with carrots, cauliflower, beets, and also aid cucumbers and cabbages. Plant marigolds in beans to repel the Mexican bean beetle. Grow summer savory with green beans to improve growth and flavor and deter bean beetles. Beans are inhibited by any member of the onion family, and do not like gladiolus or fennel. Plant broad beans with corn, anchor the roots more firmly, and protect against the wind, and the heavy vine growth may act as a deterrent to raccoons. Beans add nitrogen to the soil which is needed by the corn. Bush beans planted with potatoes protect them against the Colorado potato beetle, and the potatoes protect the bush beans from the Mexican bean beetle. Plant in alternate rows. Bush beans do well when planted with celery, one celery to every 6 or 7 of beans. Beans and cucumbers are mutually beneficial. Also with strawberries, both advancing more rapidly than if planted alone.

BEAN—POLE: not with kohlrabi, sunflower or beets.

BEETS: Beets grow well near bush bean, onions or kohlrabi, but not pole beans. Lettuce and most members of the cabbage family are "friendly".

BLACK NIGHTSHADE: Plant near potatoes since the Colorado potato beetle prefers the weed, they eat it and die, since it is poisonous.

BORAGE: Honeybees love the blossoms, so plant with strawberries and in orchards. Also an excellent provider of organic potassium, calcium and other natural minerals.

BOTANICAL SPRAYS; Dry flowers of *Chrysanthemum cineraria-folium* or *C. Roseum* in a well ventilated place. Pulverize it to a powder and mix with water for spraying. Rue, the bitterest of herbs, is an excellent insect repellent for Japanese beetle when planted near roses and raspberries.

BROCCOLI: Does well with aromatic plants as dill, celery, camomile, sage, peppermint, rosemary, and vegetables such as potatoes, beets, and onion. Do not plant with tomatoes, pole beans, or strawberries.