**Companion Planting:**

**Let Plants Help You Garden by Using What Comes Naturally**

Use green bush beans as a pest-repelling companion plant to help you to cut down or eliminate the amount of pesticides you use on your eggplants. Bush beans deter potato beetles from your garden naturally. Bush beans also helps the eggplant as it adds nitrogen to the soil as it protects the eggplant from the potato beetles.

Plant asparagus, tomatoes and parsley together and all benefit. Tomatoes and parsley smell bad to the asparagus beetle who attacks the asparagus. A chemical from the asparagus kills nematodes with can do great harm to your tomatoes. And the parsley improves both the flavor and taste of the tomatoes.

Aphids are tiny green, pink, yellowish, black or powdery grey pear-shaped bugs. They feed on most vegetables and reproduce like there is no tomorrow. As aphids feed, they drop a sticky honeydew that allows mold to grow. Not only does this mold damage and weaken the plant, it also spreads viruses that cause plants to die.

Tomato hornworms begin as moths that emerge from the soil. These moths lay greenish-white eggs on the underside of the tomato leaves that quickly hatch into hornworms. These hornworms spend four weeks gobbling the tomato leaves and growing into large fat caterpillars. They can completely defoliate a tomato plant in days. If removed from the plant, the plant completely recovers and produces healthy tomatoes.

Cabbage moths are white with black spots on their wings and are often mistaken for butterflies. If you spot one in your garden, look under your cabbage leaves. There you may find their yellowish eggs along the edges of the leaves. Remove them and their mothers and your cabbage will be fine. Leave them and they will become tiny cabbage caterpillars who will make large holes in your cabbage leaves.

Herbs work especially well as companion plants. They multitask by attracting beneficial insects and repelling pest insects and their fragrance and foliage make them good companions. Not only are they pretty, but they are a real bonus in cooking!

Chives repel aphids while also improving the growth of carrots. So plant them together and get double duty. Coriander not only deters those aphids, but potato beetle and spider mite as well.

Always plant more parsley that you can possibly need. Why? Parsley is where swallowtail butterflies like to lay their eggs. If you take this into consideration when planting and plant more than you can use, soon you will find lively yellow and black caterpillars crawling all over the parsley nibbling away. Let them eat and in a while they form chrysalis for the butterflies to form and shortly after, lovely Swallowtails emerge. It is a wonderful bonus for any gardener!