**Planting Plan**

The following planting plan contains a mix of well-established rotations and companions. It includes the use of cover crops/green manures that aren’t necessarily grown for produce. They do however play an important role in the cropping program as they improve soil fertility and structure, provide mulch material and smother weeds. Some crops are harder to grow than others as they are susceptible to weed pressure or because they have high nutrition requirements. As such this plan has been laid out in two cycles that each begin with crops that are easier to grow and/or improve the growing conditions for the more demanding crops that follow.

The suggestions outlined do not have to be adhered to strictly, but rather give good examples of successions and inter-plantings that work well with the seasons.

**Cycle 1**

Autumn/Winter – COOL SEASON CEREALS & LEGUMES

LEGUMES and CEREALS grow well together and do great things for the soil. The best way to prepare new beds for a cropping program is with a cover crop using a mix of species predominantly from these two families.

You can also grow peas, broad beans and cereals for harvest.

Other common companions include members of the BRASSICA, CHENOPOD and ASTER families

Spring/Summer – CUCURBITS

CUCURBITS grow great amongst the stubble and mulch from the previous seasons’ crops.

WARM SEASON LEGUMES and FLOWERS can be inter-planted amongst established stands mid way through the growing season as can buckwheat which attracts bees to help with pollination when it flowers.

Autumn/Winter – ALLIACEAE & APIACEAE

These well-known companions may be grown with each other or following on from one another. They are best planted in autumn but there is another short planting window around the changeover from winter to spring.

Early crops can be inter-planted or followed with COOL SEASON LEGUMES over winter.

**Cycle 2**

Spring /Summer – WARM SEASON CEREALS & LEGUMES

If the soil is good or if you add reasonable quantities of compost, you can grow crops from either of these families.

Where the soil is not very fertile, they can be used as part of a warm season cover crop mix that is terminated before seeding.

Corn and beans are considered classic companions.

Squash species and WARM SEASON FLOWERS like phacelia also go well in the mix.

Autumn/Winter – BRASSICAS, CHENOPODS AND ASTERS

These demanding families grown for their leaves, roots and flowers benefit from the goodness left behind by the warm season cereals and legumes. First plantings can be started in the latter half of summer.

Early crops can be inter-planted with COOL SEASON FLOWERS like borage or a bit later with COOL SEASON LEGUMES and CEREALS once they are established.

Spring/Summer – SOLANUMS AND ASTERS/BRASSICAS

Some members of the BRASSICA family planted previously release root exudates that repel certain SOLANUM pests. There are warm season species from the ASTER family that do a similar thing and can be planted alongside your tomatoes and peppers.

Other common companions include basil and WARM SEASON FLOWERS such as marigolds, zinnias, sunflowers, chamomile, cosmos, cleome and sweet alyssum.

Common perennial companions that are better on the outskirts or bordering production gardens include:

Lovage, Sage, Tansy, Chives, Marjoram, Nasturtium, Thyme, Tansy, Yarrow, Mint, Cress, Dill, Rosemary, Parsley, Comfrey, Horseradish, Chervil, Pyrethrum, Hyssop, etc…

**PLANT FAMILIES**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| COOL LEGUMES | COOL CEREALS | CHENOPODS |
| Peas  Broad Beans  Lupins  Vetch  Clovers  Lentils etc… | Oats  Rye  Triticale  Barley  Wheat etc… | Spinach  Beetroot  Silverbeet  Sugarbeet  Quinoa  Fat hen etc… |
| ALLIACEAE | APIACEAE | BRASSICAS |
| Onions  Leeks  Garlic  Spring Onions  Shallots etc… | Carrots  Celery  Coriander  Parsnip  Fennel  Parsley  Queen Anne’s Lace etc… | Cabbage  Cauliflower  Broccoli  Turnip  Swede  Mustard  Rocket  Asian Greens etc… |
| WARM LEGUMES | WARM CEREALS | SOLANUMS |
| Climbing Beans  Bush Beans  Haricot Beans  Berlotti Beans  Cowpeas  Fenugreek etc… | Millet  Corn  Amaranth  Sorghum etc… | Tomatoes  Capsicum  Chillies  Eggplants  Potatoes etc… |
| CUCURBITS | ASTERS | COMPANIONS |
| Cucumbers  Pumpkins  Squash/Zucchini  Watermelon  Rockmelon  Gourds etc… | Lettuce  Sunflowers  Marigolds  Calendula  Chamomile  Artichoke etc… | Basil  Borage  Buckwheat  Assorted Flowers  Phacelia etc… |