

URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

Can you plant vegetables and flowers together?

The short answer to this question is yes, you can grow vegetables and flowers together. However, the long answer includes many benefits and reasons why gardeners should consider growing their vegetables and flowers together.

Although separating vegetables and flowers by species can create a neat and organized look to a garden, it is important to note when separating plants and only planting with like plants, crops will begin to develop a dependency on herbicides and insecticides. By planting all different types of plants together, flowers will attract beneficial insects and birds to the garden, which will in turn be a benefit for your vegetable growth as well.

Planting vegetables and flowers together can create beautiful color schemes as some flowers may come in different colors and vegetable plants may produce colorful, beautifully shaped fruits which add to the look of the garden as well.

Keep in mind to leave plenty of space for good air circulation, but by planting flowers in between your vegetable rows also hinders the growth of weeds in the garden which can lead to a cleaner and healthier area for your plants.

When planting vegetables and flowers together, there are a few guidelines you should stick to. Be sure to match the species of each plant by their sunlight and water needs. Group full sunlight vegetables and flowers together, group partial sun vegetables and flowers together and so in. However, you can even plan accordingly



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and plant partial-shade loving flowers near taller vegetable plants like tomatoes, which will grow tall and cast a shadow over the flowers.

Another good tip is to plant vining flowers near tall vegetables such as corn. Plant the corn in multiple shorter rows instead of one long row, and plant flowers such as morning glories or nasturtiums between the rows, because these flowers will vine up the stalks.

When planting cabbage, lettuce or other leafy greens, space the vegetables far enough apart to plant annuals in between them to add a splash of color such as petunias and dianthus. Always considering adding white flowers as well to accentuate the background.

Plant vegetables like kale in ornamental gardens with plants like elephant ears. The differing size and texture of the plants' leaves will add a nice touch.



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When planting cucurbit vegetables and vegetables that require pollination to produce fruit with annual flowers, because the flowers will attract insects which will then pollinate the vegetables so they can produce fruit.

By planting marigolds throughout the entire garden, the flowers will deter harmful insects that could harm or destroy your vegetables.

When tending to a garden full of both vegetables and flowers alike, harvest frequently to encourage more vegetables to grow. You can also do this with flowers by snipping them for a bouquet or deadheading the dead blooms.

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