

# Companion Planting Bob Basics - Bob Flowerdew's Insights

Companion planting has gained popularity among gardeners in recent years due to its numerous benefits. One expert in this field is Bob Flowerdew, a renowned British organic gardener and author. In this article, we will delve into the basics of companion planting as taught by Bob Flowerdew and explore some of his valuable insights.

## Understanding Companion Planting

Companion planting is a gardening technique where different plants are grown together to achieve mutual benefits. These benefits can include improved pest control, increased pollination, soil nourishment, and optimal space utilization. Bob Flowerdew believes that carefully selecting plant combinations can create a harmonious environment that promotes healthy growth and productivity.

## The Principles of Companion Planting

According to Bob Flowerdew, understanding the principles behind companion planting is key to achieving successful results. One important concept is the principle of attraction. Certain plants emit specific scents or flavors that can either attract or repel pests. By strategically planting repellent crops near vulnerable ones, you can deter harmful insects naturally without resorting to chemical pesticides.

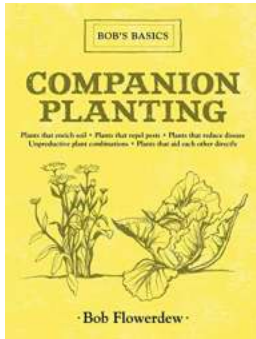
### Companion Planting: Bob's Basics

by Bob Flowerdew (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 7036 KB



Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
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Another principle is the utilization of space. Different plants have different growth patterns, and some can provide beneficial shade or support for others. For example, tall plants like sunflowers can provide shade to delicate lettuces, preventing them from bolting in excessive heat. On the other hand, climbing plants such as beans can use tall plants as support structures, maximizing the use of limited garden space.

## **Plant Combinations for Maximum Success**

Bob Flowerdew suggests several companion planting combinations that have proven successful over the years. One famous example is the three sisters planting: corn, beans, and squash. The cornstalks provide a natural trellis for the beans to climb, while the beans enrich the soil with nitrogen, benefiting the corn and squash. In return, the sprawling squash plants act as a living mulch, keeping the soil cool and preventing weed growth.

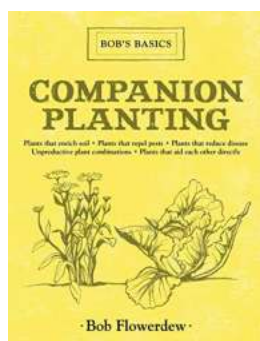
Another intriguing combination suggested by Flowerdew is planting carrots and onions together. The strong smell of onions repels carrot flies, while carrots suppress weed growth around the onions. Both crops can coexist harmoniously, ensuring healthier and more flavorful yields.

## Cautionary Notes and Exceptions

Although companion planting offers numerous advantages, it is vital to consider some cautionary notes and exceptions. Bob Flowerdew advises against planting certain crops together due to potential negative interactions. For instance, planting tomatoes and potatoes together is generally discouraged as some diseases can affect both crops.

Additionally, while companion planting can help deter pests, it doesn't guarantee complete pest control. Regular monitoring and intervention may still be required to maintain a healthy garden. Experimenting and observing the effects of different plant combinations over time is essential for achieving the best results.

Companion planting, a technique embraced by Bob Flowerdew, offers an organic and sustainable approach to gardening. By understanding the principles and experimenting with different plant combinations, gardeners can create a balanced and thriving ecosystem in their own backyards. Bob Flowerdew's insights and experience provide valuable guidance for those looking to maximize their garden's productivity while reducing the reliance on chemical interventions.



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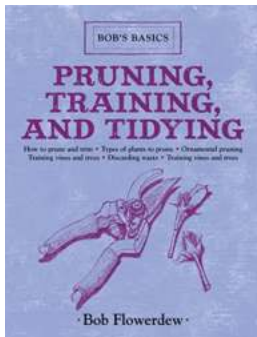


According to Flowerdew, the key to successful organic gardening is working with nature, rather than against it, to get your plants to thrive. This practice is called companion planting, and it is explained in this volume with a style that is both nonsense and reader-friendly. Topics range from plants that compete for nutrients to plants that enrich their soil for future crops. Gardeners of all levels will learn from Companion Planting and their gardens will benefit from happy and healthy plants.



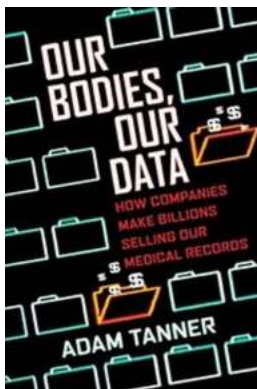
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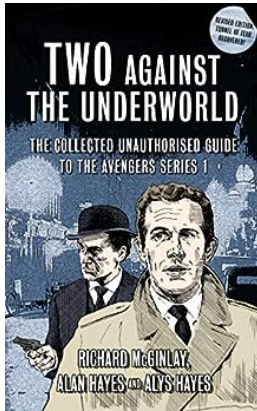
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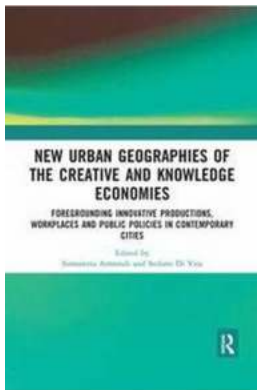
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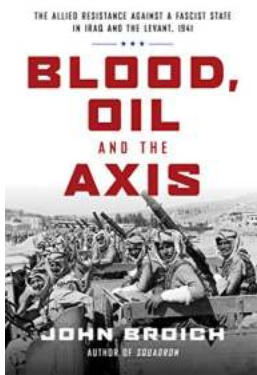
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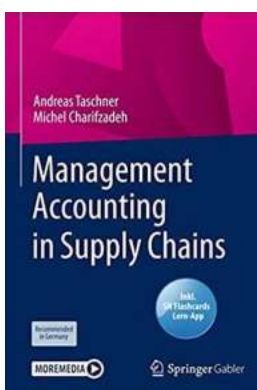
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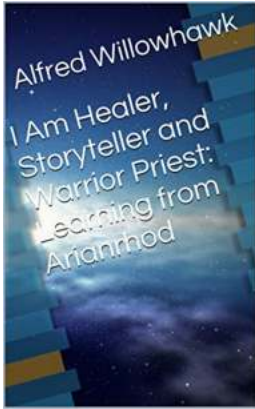
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