

KALE: Kale is currently the most hailed of the cabbage family. Its BFFs include beets, celery, spinach, lettuce and chard. Plant garlic nearby for improved growth and flavor.

CARROTS: Tomatoes, peppers, peas, radishes and beans all are happy around carrots. Chives will increase flavor, rosemary and sage will keep the carrot flies from destroying the crop – but keep the dill in a galaxy far, far away or you'll have stunted growth.

CORN: Don't plant corn next to tomatoes as the same worm munches on both. Instead, corn enjoys companionship from parsley, melon, pumpkin and beans. Plant marigolds to fend off Japanese beetles.

EGGPLANT: One of my most favorite vegetables to plant, it thrives with peppers and beans. Again, marigolds are friends with eggplant.

LETTUCE: So easy to grow in a home garden, throw some seeds near strawberries, radishes and beets. Boost flavor and aphid control with garlic and chives.

POTATOES: Allies are eggplant, corn, cabbages and beans. Keep tomatoes and potatoes away from one another or you'll attract blight. For protection from beetles, plant marigolds.

PUMPKINS: Every kid wants to grow his or her own Halloween Jack O'Lantern. Squash and melons are good buddies with pumpkins. Nasturtium and oregano provide the pest protection.

STRAWBERRIES: Thyme serves as border patrol. Lettuce, bean, onion and spinach all like to party with strawberries, but don't invite cabbage.

TOMATOES: We already know that potatoes and corn are not to be planted with tomatoes, but you need to know that dill and kohlrabi will stunt growth. Friends include basil, chives, mint, celery, cucumber, onion, parsley and pepper – all the delicious ingredients of a summer salad!



Grow tomatoes in a container with BFFs, basil and peppers.



Cynthia Brian is friends with all flowers.

I am available as a speaker, designer, and consultant.

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A basket of vegetables and herbs that have helped one another thrive.

Cynthia Brian's Mid-Month Reminders

CLEAR debris from your home and garden perimeter. Dried limbs, leaves, and weeds need to be removed. Fire season is upon us.

WATER deeply once or twice a week rather in short spurts. You'll encourage stronger roots and save on your water bill, too.

DOWNLOAD a new free App: "GrowIt!" The app combines user-uploaded photos and GPS utilization with the ability to rate plants to help people find specific plants and inspiration for your locale available at both the Apple App and Google Play stores.

CUT twining stems of clematis for arrangements that will be colorful and full for three weeks, or longer.

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