

Is companion planting something real?

By Kay Melia



kay melia

the gardener

Master Gardener vkmelia@yahoo.com
I have in my possession, roughly 250 old gardening magazines of varying ages that I enjoy referring to occasionally. There are Flower and Garden editions, Organic Gardening, Horticulture magazine, and Gardens For All publications standing by, ready for immediate use at the proper time. I'm not sure when that will be, but there they are, whenever I might need them.
Several months ago, I opened the pages of a 1984 Organic Gardening magazine and there was a tomato with a smiling face holding hands

with an equally happy head of cabbage. An onion was dancing with a carrot, and a cucumber was having an obviously interesting conversation with a head of broccoli. I ask myself "What goes on here?"
The title of the accompanying article by one Elliott Tozer was "The Truth About Companion Planting," and the reader was invited to

learn why some garden plantings make better neighbors than others.
But does planting one specie of plant beside another actually enhance the growth and production of each other, or is the whole idea just wishful thinking? It all started about 2,000 years ago when Pliny the Elder wrote that "rice seems to be very friendly with figs" and ever since, gardeners everywhere have been swapping countless ideas and suggestions about various garden pairings.
Actually, there seems to have been

very few controlled experiments on the subject, and therefore there is very little conclusive evidence that specific companion plantings really work. And in the research that HAS been conducted, the results are often not clear cut. When plant growth or yield IS improved by a companion it is likely due to subtle, biological factors that seem to vary from garden to garden. In some successful plant partnerships for instance, one plant will act to decoy harmful insects, luring them away from the target crop. In other instances, a companion may have a positive influence on the soil, or simply provide needed shade. The

truth is, a companion planting does not help a fellow plant DIRECTLY. Instead, it might play a small role in a complicated series of events that may seem to enhance the other plants's growth or health.
But, for wherever it's worth, here are a few match-ups that the author, Mr Tozer says may have the support of at least one scientific study. To benefit cabbage, plant tomatoes nearby. To aid your carrot crop, plant onions. Sweet corn seems to appreciate a row of beans nearby. To keep broccoli happy, plant a hill or two of cucumbers in the vicinity. Collards seem to enjoy a tomato plant as a close neighbor, and bell

peppers seem to welcome a few ragweeds or pig weeds nearby because the weeds attract leaf minors that peppers can't appreciate. And finally, an idea that seems to be a bit bazaar. Plant a few dandelions close to your tomato patch. The roots of dandelions seem to protect against fusarium wilt, one of the real killers of tomatoes. Somehow, it's tough to visualize a gardener purposely planting weeds anywhere, but then.....
Spring arrives next week! Is your hoe sharp?

Suggestions are given for cool-season grass care

The following suggestions are for cool-season grasses such as Kentucky bluegrass or tall fescue. Zoysiagrass, bermudagrass, and buffalograss are warm-season grasses and require a different maintenance regime. A warm-season grass calendar will be covered in a later newsletter.



dana belshe

ag notebook

Late-July through August
If you see grub damage, apply a grub killer that contains Dylox. Merit and Mach 2 are effective against

young grubs and may not be effective on late instar grubs. The grub killer containing Dylox must be watered in within 24 hours or effectiveness drops.
September
Fertilize around Labor Day. This

is the most important fertilization of the year. Water in fertilizer.
November
Fertilize. This fertilizer is taken up by the roots but is not used until the following spring. Water in fertilizer. Spray for broadleaf weeds even

if they are small. Broadleaf weeds are much easier to control in the fall than in the spring. Spray on a day that is at least 50 degrees. Rain or irrigation within 24 hours reduces effectiveness. Use label rates for all products!

March
Spot treat broadleaf weeds if necessary. Treat on a day that is 50 degrees or warmer. Rain or irrigation within 24 hours of application will reduce effectiveness.
April
Apply crabgrass preventer when redbud trees are in full bloom, usually in April. The preventer needs to be watered in before it will start to work. Remember that a good, thick lawn is the best weed prevention and may be all that is needed.
May
Fertilize with a slow-release fertilizer if you water your lawn or if you receive enough rainfall that your turf normally doesn't go drought-dormant during the summer. If there are broadleaf weeds, spot treat with a spray or use a fertil-

izer that includes a weed killer. Rain or irrigation within 24 hours of application will reduce effectiveness of the weed killer, but the fertilizer needs to be watered in. If you are using a product that has both fertilizer and weed killer, wait 24 hours after application before watering in.
June through Mid-July
Apply second round of crabgrass preventer by June 15 - unless you have used Dimension (dithiopyr) or Barricade (proflam) for the April application. These two products normally provide season-long control with a single application. Remember to water it in. If grubs have been a problem in the past, apply a product containing "Merit" or "Mach 2" during the first half of July. This works to prevent grub damage. It must be watered in before it becomes active.

Cheyenne County Health Fair to be in April

The Cheyenne County Spring Health Fair is scheduled for Monday to Friday, April 16 to 20.
Lab work available is a chemistry panel (with TSH and Lipid panel), Hemoglobin, ALC and PSA. The reduced fee for the work is due at the time of service and will not be billed to insurance.
The lab draws for St. Francis will be from 6 to 9 a.m. (Mountain Time) Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, April 16 to 18, at the Cheyenne County Clinic in the basement. Appointments are not needed and people need to remember to fast for the chemistry panel. Fasting means nothing to eat or drink except water after midnight.
Bird City lab draws are from 6 to 9 a.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, April 17 and 18, at the Bird City Clinic. Appointments are not needed and

people need to fast.
There will be educational display booths available during the lab draws in the basement of the Cheyenne County Clinic. Hospital, clinic and county health employees will be on hand to answer questions and explain health programs and services available through their departments.
Also offered are female and male exams by appointment Wednesday to Friday, April 18 to 20, at the Cheyenne County Clinic. Female exams include a breast and pelvic exam with a Pap smear. Male exams include a prostate check. Fees are due at the time of the appointments and will not be billed to insurance.
For information call Mila Brandel, RN County Health Nurse, at (785) 332-2381.

Brewster business to raise money for food banks

CHS Agronomy of Brewster is gathering donations of money, food and crops to help raise the equivalent of 2 million meals for hungry families. As part of CHS Harvest for Hunger food and fund drive, CHS will accept contributions until Friday.
They also have an office in Burlington. They will deliver the donations to the local food bank.
"We're excited to participate in CHS Harvest for Hunger, says Pat Peterson, general manager. "For every donation we collect, CHS Country Operations will also make a local contribution to help friends

and neighbors right here in our community. This is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to multiply the impact of every donation we make."
Financial donations are encouraged because food banks can utilize their buying power to provide nutritious food at deeply discounted rates. In fact, every \$1 donated provides between 3.5 and 7 meals. (Number of meals per dollar varies by region.)
The effort is part of the CHS Harvest for Hunger food and fund drive.

Scholarships offered by Hays veterans group

Sherman County students can apply for three \$500 scholarships offered by the Vietnam Veterans of America Hays Chapter 939 for college or trade school. The deadline is Friday, April 13. The winners will be announced Friday, April 27. Students in Cheyenne, Decatur, Ellis, Finney, Graham, Hodgeman, Lane,

Ness, Norton, Osborne, Phillips, Rawlins, Rooks, Rush, Thomas, Trego and Wallace.
For information contact Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 939, Box 1224, Hays, Kan. 67601. School officials may also have an application packet.

Worship warms the heart



<p>Calvary Gospel Church Pastor: Randy and Mary Payne Fourth & College • 890-3605 Sunday: Kid's Church: 10 am Morning Service: 8:30 and 10:30 am Prayer and Praise: 5:00 p.m. except last Sunday of the month Wednesday: Royal Rangers, Missionettes 6:30 p.m. during school year Youth @ the Rock House, Sixth & Caldwell: 6:30 p.m. Life Groups - Call for information Join us on Facebook www.calvarygospel.net</p>	<p>Goodland United Methodist Church 1116 Sherman 899-3631 Pastors: Dustin and Shelly Petz Saturday: Worship: 5:30 p.m. Sunday: Adult Classes: 9:15 a.m. Worship: 10:30 a.m. Wednesday: Wednesday Nite Live 5:45 - 6:45 p.m. Simple Supper "Free will Offering" 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Classes for all ages</p>	<p>Pleasant Home Church Serving the rural community for over 120 years Rt. 1, Box 180 • 3190 Road 70 (785) 694-2807 Pastor: Perry Baird Sunday: Worship Service: 9 a.m. Sunday School: 10 a.m.</p>	<p>Promiseland Baptist Church Pastor: Rick Holmes • 890-7082 225 W. 16th (785) 890-7944 Sunday: Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. Morning Service: 11:30 a.m. Evening Service: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday: Bible Study Service 6:30 p.m. Thursdays: Adult Bible Study 7-8 p.m.</p>
<p>Bible Baptist Church Pastor: Clifford Middlebrooks Fifth & Broadway 890-7368 Sunday: Sunday School: 9 a.m. Morning Service: 10 a.m. Evening Service: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday: Evening Bible Study: 7 p.m.</p>	<p>Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints 1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO (719) 346-7984 Sacrament Meeting: 10 a.m. Sunday School: 11:15 a.m. Priesthood/Relief Society: 12 a.m.</p>	<p>Iglesia Del Dios Vivo La Luz Del Mundo Spanish Speaking Church Minister: Esteban Ortiz B. 1601 Texas • 899-5275 Daily Prayer: Sunday thru Saturday: 5a.m. & 6 p.m. Sunday: Sunday School: 10 a.m.</p>	<p>Kanorado United Methodist Church Pastor: Leonard Cox 399-2468 Sunday: Sunday School: 9 a.m. Worship Service: 10:15 a.m.</p>
<p>United Methodist Church Brewster Pastor: Dorine Chambers Worship Service: 10:45 a.m. CST Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. CST Minister: Sheryl Johnson Worship Service: 9 a.m. CST Sunday School: 10:15 am CST</p>	<p>First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Pastor: Rev. Carol Edling Jolly Eighth & Arcade • 890-5233 Sunday: Church School - All ages 9:15 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Youth Group: 1st and 3rd Sundays 5-7 p.m. Thursday: Prayer Class - Noon Pastor Carol's Class 5:30 p.m. www.goodlandfccdoc.org</p>	<p>Church of the Nazarene Pastor: Bob Willis Third & Caldwell 899-2080 or 899-3797 Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Worship Service: 10:50 a.m. Evening Service: 6 p.m. Wednesday: Evening Service: 7 p.m.</p>	<p>St. Paul's Episcopal Church Celebrant: Father Don Martin 13th & Center Church 890-2115 or 890-7245 Services: 5 p.m. Saturday evening</p>
<p>First Baptist Church Pastor: Travis Blake 1121 Main 890-3450 Sunday: Coffee fellowship: 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship: 10 a.m. Sunday School: 11:15 a.m. Thursday: Bible study 9:30 a.m. Wheatridge Center</p>	<p>Our Lady of Perpetual Help Celebrant: Father Norbert Dlabal 307 W. 13th • 890-7205 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 5-5:45 p.m. Saturday or by appointment Mass Schedule: Saturday: 6 pm, Sunday: 10:30 am Spanish Mass: Sunday: 12:30 pm</p>	<p>Harvest Evangelical Free Church 521 E. Hwy. 24 • 890-6423 Pastor: Brian Fugleberg Sunday: Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday school: 9:30 a.m. Wednesday: Senior High: 6:30 p.m. at the church Junior High: 6:30 p.m. at the church www.goodlandfree.com</p>	<p>Emmanuel Lutheran Church 13th & Sherman • 890-6161 Pastor: Darian Hybl Sunday: Christian education/fellowship: 10:15 a.m. Worship Service: 9 a.m.</p>
<p>Seventh Day Adventist Church 1160 Cattletrail Pastor: Jerry Nowack Saturday: Sabbath School: 9:30 a.m. Worship Service: 11 a.m.</p>	<p>Church of Christ 401 Caldwell 890-6185 Sunday: Bible Study: 9:45 a.m. Worship Service: 10:45 a.m. Wednesday: Bible Study: 7 p.m.</p>	<p>The following sponsors urge YOU to attend your chosen House of Worship this Sabbath:</p>	

Visit us on Facebook
The Goodland Star-News

Short & Trucking Hwy. 24	Koons Funeral Chapel North Main	Good Samaritan Center 208 W. 2nd
Goodland Star-News 1205 Main	KLOEIKKQJIKWGB 3023 W. 31	AFLAC Insurance 111 W. 12th