

Kids STEAM-to-go



COMPANION PLANTING

April 2021

Plant some seeds and observe how the plants work together to grow!



Materials List

- 3 peat seed starting plugs
- Seeds that grow well together
(seed trios provided in kits are listed below)
 - corn/bean/nasturtium **or**
 - radish/cucumber/marigold
- Something to cover your seed plugs until the seeds sprout*
(one idea: repurpose a clear lid or container)
- A warm, bright location to start your seeds plus a location where they can grow outdoors*
(in a pot or not)

*not provided

Directions:



1. Place your seed starting plugs on a tray or in a dish
2. Add lukewarm (not hot) water to the dish and wait about 15 minutes for the plugs to expand (they will be about 1 1/2 inches across when fully expanded)
3. Lightly dig into the soil at the top of the plug and insert your seeds
 - For Radish/Cucumber/Marigolds: Add 2-3 seeds per plug
 - For Corn/Bean/Nasturtiums: Add 1 seed per plug
4. Cover the seed(s) with the soil you moved and water lightly
5. Keep plugs damp (not soaked)
6. Once the seeds sprout, remove the covering
7. When the sprouts have a second set of leaves, transplant to your final growing location (this could be in a pot or in the ground)



Stayton Public Library

Modifications & Extensions

For a younger crowd...

Your child may really enjoy just digging in the dirt and adding the seeds may be an afterthought... Encourage them to find a safe place to dig in the soil, exploring what their senses notice about it...

What does it feel like? What does it smell like?

Young children are very observant and benefit from opportunities to talk about what they notice in their surroundings.



For more advanced learners...

As your seeds grow, start a seed journal and document what you observe about the process. Here are some questions to get you started.

How much does your sprout grow from day to day?

What types of leaves do they have? How many are there?

How long does it take for your seeds to emerge from the ground?

The more information you have about how your seeds grow, the better you'll be able to plan for future seed starting!

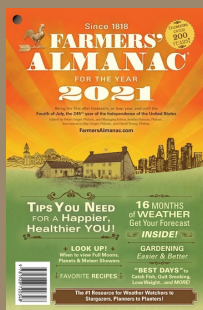


Explore Further



The Farmer's Almanac
Companion Planting Guide

[https://www.farmersalmanac.com/
companion-planting-guide](https://www.farmersalmanac.com/companion-planting-guide)



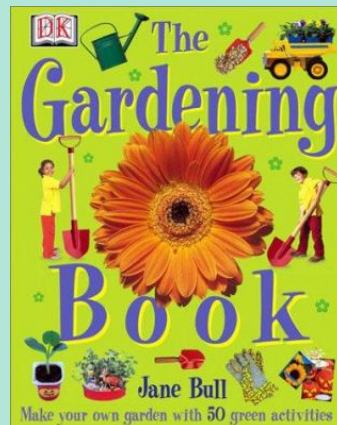
The Basics from KidsGardening-
Companion Planting

[https://kidsgardening.org/gardening-
basics-companion-planting/](https://kidsgardening.org/gardening-basics-companion-planting/)



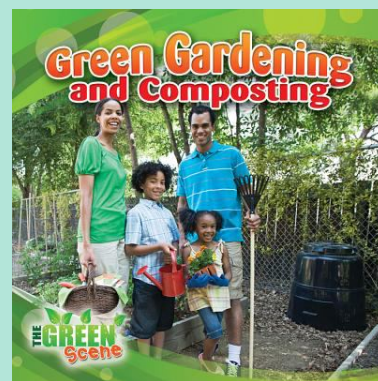
Learn more about beneficial plant combos on these sites

Titles to Explore



The gardening book

By Jane Bull



Green gardening and composting

By Molly Aloian



The best-ever step-by-step kid's first
gardening : fantastic Gardening Ideas for
5-12 year olds, from growing fruit and
vegetables and fun with flowers to wildlife
gardening and outdoor crafts

By Jenny Hendy