Grow to Give

Support Horatio's Garden and your community with little acts of kindness

A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO COMPANION PLANTING: TOMATOES & MARIGOLDS

Companion planting is creating plant communities, flowers and vegetables, or vegetables and herbs, both of whom have mutual benefit to each other. Creating good partnerships between plants is not only productive, but can often be aesthetically beautiful as it's wonderful to see plants growing happily alongside each other. It's also an environmentally friendly way to protect crops from pests and to improve pollination.

1. Fill a pot with compost, preferably seed sowing compost. Dampen the compost with water.
2. Ensure no air pockets in the compost by tapping the full compost pots.
3. Sow seeds thinly on the surface.
4. Once sown, cover with a dusting of vermiculite or seed compost, checking all the seeds are covered.
5. Set freshly sown pots into a container of water to allow them to soak up water from below. Remove once the soil surface is evenly moist. Planted seed pots should not be watered from overhead until the plants have their first set of true leaves, as one strong blast of water will wash tiny seeds away.
6. Place your planted seed pots en masse in a sealed plastic bag to maintain humidity.
7. Now place these sealed pots somewhere warm and sunny.
8. Continue to keep the compost moist by repeating watering from below.
9. Remove the plastic bag once the seeds have germinated, approximately 7-10 days from sowing.
10. When seedlings outgrow their pots (which is when they've produced their second set of leaves) transplant them to individual pots.
11. When the weather is warm enough (April-May) start transitioning them to be planted outside. This means hardening the plants off, acclimatising them gradually to cooler temperatues outside by exposing them to outside temperatures a little each day.
12. In late May, transplant both tomatoes and marigolds into a sunny spot outside.

For more top tips on how to grow tomatoes, simply click here.

Horatio's Garden is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Registered Number 1151475/SC045386.
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