

# GARDENING, WILDLIFE & PET CENTER

## Companion Planting



BY LYNN NEFF

By using companion planting, many gardeners find that they can discourage harmful pests without losing the beneficial allies. There are many varieties of herbs, flowers, etc. that can be used for companion plants. Be open to experimenting and find what works for you. Some possibilities would

be using certain plants as a border, backdrop or interplanting in your flower or vegetable beds where you have specific needs.

Companion planting can combine beauty and purpose to give you an enjoyable, healthy environment. Have fun, let your imagination soar.

Companion plants help attract beneficial insects to your garden to help you keep a natural balance. Good insects to have in your garden are ladybugs, green lacewings, parasitic wasps, the Asian lady beetle and others.

Most plants have odors and root secretions that

repel certain insects, but some have more than others. Plants that are universally unappealing to insects include marigolds, chrysanthemums, chives, onions, garlic, basil, horseradish, mint and nasturtiums. Plant lots of these plants to repel unwanted insects.

Nasturtium is often recommended for the garden because of the pests it repels, including whiteflies, woolly aphids and ants. But it also attracts the pesky blackfly, an aphid relative that infests vegetables, such as broad beans and cucumbers as well as chrysanthemums. Plant nasturtiums between the rows and blackflies

will swarm to them instead of the plants you want to save. Eventually natural predators, parasites and diseases will get rid of the blackflies and they won't even hang around the nasturtiums.

Tomatoes and asparagus are a great combination. There's something about the asparagus that the tomato hornworm doesn't like, and asparagus beetles avoid tomato plants. Plant them together to rid both crops of these deadly pests.

Ants, it seems, don't particularly like 3 particular plant members of the mint family; peppermint, spearmint and pennyroyal. Ants help gardeners by

eating other insects and cleaning up dead material. But they can become a nuisance and they breed aphids which destroy crops. You can try spreading ground cloves or red pepper on the ground around beds. Ants also don't like cream of tartar, cinnamon, or dried paprika.

Here are some planting companions that work well and they're counterparts that do not work well.

Asparagus likes to be with Basil, Tomato, Nasturtium, Parsley, but really dislikes being near onion, garlic or potato.

Beans like to be near Carrot, cabbage, cauliflower,

cucumber, marigold, but hate being placed near chives, leeks and garlic.

Carrots like to be with bush beans, pole beans, lettuce, onion, peas, radish and tomato. They don't like to be planted with chives, dill, parsnip or radishes.

Corn likes to have beans, cucumbers, melons, peas, pumpkin, potatoes and radishes planted near, but they don't like to be planted with tomatoes.

Zucchini's like to be planted next to nasturtiums.

Happy planting!

## How to stop a dog from chewing



BY JENNIFER KING

The act of chewing seems to be a matter of individual preference among dogs: some have an innate desire to chew as a pleasurable activity in itself, and some seem to have no need to chew whatsoever unless they're driven to it out of sheer boredom. In any case, when chewing is destructive - it's a problem that NEEDS to be addressed quickly.

The phrase "destructive chewing" may sound redundant, because - by its very nature! - all chewing is destructive. Your dog has strong jaws full of sharp, pointy teeth: just about anything she starts to chew on is probably going to show the effects of it inside of a minute. So just to clarify, when I use the phrase "destructive chewing", I'm referring to inappropriate chewing: the kind of chewing that's focused on your own possessions and household items, instead of on your dog's own designated toys and chews.

### The 3 Main Reasons Why Dogs Chew:

1. Most dogs have a natural desire to chew. It's fun, it passes the time, and it's a self-rewarding, self-reinforcing activity (for example, if she's chewing on something that tastes good.)

2. Chewing provides a nervous, bored, or lonely dog with an outlet for her emotions. To an anxious dog, the repetitive act of chewing is soothing - it's the doggie equivalent of comfort food.

3. Under exercised dogs often use chewing as a way of burning up nervous energy and giving themselves something to do.

### 6 Ways to Prevent Destructive Chewing

Dogs are perfectly capable of learning not to chew on your stuff - you just have to put in a little effort at first, that's all.

1. Doggy-Proofing: Take control of the situation: manage your own possessions. Your first step should be to dog-proof your home. Even if you have the best-behaved dog in the world, there's still no reason to test her self-control - after all, dogs explore the world with their mouths.

Dog-proofing your home means taking whatever you don't want to end up in her mouth, and making it unavailable. Consider her size and agility when deciding whether something's out of reach: can she jump? Can she climb, or leap onto something else to reach the desired object? How tall is she when standing on her back legs

Common targets in the home include books, eyewear, clothing, shoes, garbage, and small crunchy appliances like cameras, cell phones, and remote controls.

It should go without saying that all food needs to be put securely away: don't leave snacks on low tables (or even countertops - you'd be surprised how acrobatic she can be when there's food at stake!), put all food into containers or the pantry. Rinse your dirty plates clean of any food scraps before leaving them by the sink.

2. Prevention: Prevent her

from learning the joys of illegal chewing. The more times she manages to snatch a jawful of a forbidden substance - a chair-leg, a pillow, a running shoe - the more readily she'll target those items in future. If you can prevent her from chewing your stuff in the first place, it's a lot easier for her to understand what you expect of her. Practically speaking, this means confining her in a dog-proofed area until you're confident of her understanding of the house rules.

3. Rule Setting: Don't set her up for failure by blurring the boundaries between her stuff (OK to chew) and your stuff (not OK to chew). Don't offer your dog cast-off clothes, shoes, or towels to chew and play with: realistically, you can't possibly expect her to be able to tell the difference between your current shoes and the one she's got in her mouth that you gave her five minutes ago.

4. Provision: Provide her with lots of tasty alternatives to your stuff. If her environment is relatively barren of attractive, appropriate chewing objects, you can hardly blame her for targeting your possessions. Remember, most dogs need to chew; if she's an adolescent (under three years) or a puppy (under one year), her needs will be even more pronounced. Go on a toy and chew shopping spree, then give her two or three to play with at a time. Rotating the available toys every few days will keep things novel and interesting for her.

5. She can't learn what you expect of her if she's spending all her time boxed up in the dog-proof zone: she needs the opportunity to explore the boundaries of your expectations, so she can understand what's appropriate and what's not.

6. The Switcheroo: When you catch her chewing something inappropriate, interrupt her by making a loud noise: clap your hands or make an "Ah-ah-aaaah!" noise or the command leave it. Then, immediately hand her a tasty and dog-appropriate alternative (a rubber toy or bone); as soon as her jaws close around it, praise her lavishly. There is no better way to get your dog to understand that chewing "her" toys equals praise from you, but everything else equals trouble.

### Maintain a Positive Attitude

Above all, remember to keep your expectations realistic. You're not perfect, and neither is your dog: there's likely to be at least one incident where a cherished item is damaged by her curiosity.

Particularly in the early stages of your relationship, she's still learning the ropes: it'll take awhile before she's completely reliable (and even then, if she's left by herself for too long or feels neglected, she may choose your stuff over hers to occupy her time and jaws with.) Remember to give her time to learn the rules, and plenty of 'you-time' to help her learn faster - and don't forget to take precautions and keep things out of reach until she's got the hang of the chewing rules!

If you REALLY want to end your dog's excessive chewing problem, you NEED to establish yourself as the Alpha Dog of the house.

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## Julie on the road



Greetings Friends!

I thought I would start off this month by first posting an update on our Farm Animal Seizure case from last month. I am happy to report that with the exception of the pigs, the owner agreed to permanently relinquish all of the other animals and they have been placed in to forever, loving homes. The judge additionally stated, that while the owner would be able to keep the pigs, they could not be returned to his property until a full clean up is performed. They are now staying in super conditions on a ranch not far from where we sheltered them.

The next few items I wanted to address are critical to the care of any animal. It only takes a few days of warm weather to dial up the hormones on our companion animals and lo and behold, tis the season. Animals are apt to escape and break out of your yard, all in the pursuit of mating. Spaying and neutering your pet will not only make them much happier, but it can also calm some of the aggressive tendencies and the midnight crying they may experience as well. Altering your pet can also prevent a host of cancers and tumors, unaltered animals tend to get.

I also decided to enlist the help of an amazing guy to help me get a handle on a program and some of the laws on the books. Dan DeSousa is with San Diego Animal Services and is my resource extraordinaire. I asked him about their low cost spay and neuter program and here

is what he explained. San Diego County residents are able to obtain low cost spay and neuter certificates up to \$75.00 if the funding is there - in many cases, that would mean the surgery is free. They also offer low cost rabies and micro-chipping clinics, which is a critical id technique if your pet is lost or stolen. Call any of the four shelters if you have any questions or would like additional information.

I also asked him to give me the latest California Laws regarding tethering, since we seem to have so many loose dogs without collars running around the back country. It is the owner's responsibility to ensure their dog is kept in the yard or on a leash at all times. Health and Safety Code 12.23.35 basically states the following: No animal shall be chained at any time. An animal can be attached to a trolley (a moving cable) for no more than 3 hours per day so a person may complete a temporary task. It is also important to make note that should your dog become a threat to livestock, the owner of that livestock has the right to shoot your animal. A dog on the loose can be hit by a car, stolen, injured in other ways or even sustain death, so please make sure you watch out for them and take steps to ensure their safety at all times.

I truly appreciated Dan's honesty and thank him for taking some time out for me. I know how much our pets mean to us, so in the coming weeks, I will be hopefully trying to get a mobile vaccination clinic and possibly the Neuter Scooter to visit us here in the back country. I will keep you posted.

In the meantime, I wish you Peace, Love and Blessings.

Julie Johnson