Companion Planting. (To be or not to be that is the question?)

Herdis Maclellan Master Gardener Spring 2013

Companion planting is the practice of planting different crops in close proximity to each other in order to influence nutrient uptake, pest control, pollination and other factors for production of a good harvest. Companion planting can also increase the beauty in your garden by planting flowers in your vegetable garden and herbs in your flower garden.

Other names!

- 1. Intercropping
- 2. Poly-culture
- 3. Plant association

How did it start?

- 1. Romans first to experiment
- 2. Native Indians three sisters concept
- 3. Gardeners verses scientists

Benefits of companion planting!

- 1. Organic pest control
- 2. Attract pollinators
- 3. Improve micro organism in the soil
- 4. Add extra interest in the garden

Examples of intercropping!

- 1. Garlic amongst roses
- 2. Annual flowers in vegetable garden
- 3. Vegetables and herbs
- 4. Hot pepper as pest control
- 5. Lambs ear attract ladybugs
- 6. Legumes as nitrogen fixers

Weeds that are not so bad!

- 1. Stinging nettles
- 2. Purslane
- 3. Dandelions
- 4. Lambs quarters