Herbs with Many Uses

Herbs are often an overlooked addition to our landscape and can serve many purposes. This presentation will focus on easy herbs for companion planting to help reduce pest pressure, encourage beneficial insects, add beauty to your garden, and bring extra flavor to your table.







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HERBS

Botanical Definition: "Herbaceous" Plant that does not produce a woody stem and it dies back to the ground in the winter.

Most Valuable Native Herbaceous Plant Genera in Terms of Supporting Biodiversity in the Mid-Atlantic									
Research findings of Dr. Douglas Tallamy, University of Delaware									
Herbaceous Genus 🖽	Common Name 🖽	# Species Lepidoptera	Herbaceous Genus	Common Name ⊞	# Species Lepidopter _⊞				
Solidago	goldenrod	115	Iris	iris	17				
Aster	aster	109	Oenothera	evening primrose 🗉	16				
Helianthus	sunflower	75	Asclepias	milkweed	13				
Eupatorium	joe-pye	41	Verbena	vervain	11				
Іротоеа	morning glory ⊞	39	Penstemon	beard- tongue ⊡	8				
Carex	sedge	36	Phlox	phlox	8				
Lupinus	lupine	33	Monarda	bee balm	7				
Viola	violet	29	Veronica	veronica	6				
Geranium	geranium	23	Schizachyrium	little bluestem ⊡	6				
Rudbeckia	black-eyed susan ⊞	17	Lobelia	lobelia	4				

Gardener Definition: Has culinary, aromatic or medicinal uses. Roots, stems, foliage, flowers, and seeds used.



Reasons to Integrate Herbs

- 1) Building Habitat a) Provide structure/cover b) Nectarc) Food Sources for Larval Stages 2) Attracting Pollinators **Deterring Pests** 3) 4) Expand selection of Recipes
 - a) Edible Flowers







Build Habitat by adding plant diversity A landscape with a complex structure includes multiple plant species creating an opportunity for diversity...



Consider: Surrounding the garden with natural vegetation or perennial plant beds that offer sheltered overwintering sites, particularly for predaceous ground beetles.

Food sources:

vegetation, seeds, pollen, nectar, insects

Fritillary: A Pretty Butterfly and a Good Pollinator

Like many other butterflies, their caterpillars are very selective about what they eat. They do not go for milkweeds as do monarchs; they prefer violets instead. Without violets, there would be no fritillaries. The adults, on the other hand are thirsty for nectar of many native flowers, such as mints, butterfly weed, common milkweed, Joe-pye-weed and others; but they do not hesitate to visit some non-native flowers such as lilacs, butterfly bush and some thistles. In general they prefer long tubular flowers, but they can also use some easy to reach, more open flowers.

Caterpillars hatch in the fall and go to sleep right away without feeding. They sleep through the winter and will only awaken in the spring at the same time as violet plants begin to grow. The timing is important to the hungry caterpillar. It is feared that global warming may disrupt this synchronization; this would prove catastrophic to fritillary caterpillars. Studies are underway to verify whether this is already taking place.



common blue violet (Viola sororia)



itillary. Photo by Beatriz Moisse



llary Photo by Beatriz Moisse





Photo by Reatriz Moisse

https://news.extension.uconn.edu/2015/06/24/common-blue-violet-wildflower-or-weed/#:~:text=Medicinal%20uses% 20have%20included%20treatment,flowers%20and%20leaves%20are%20edible.

https://www.fs.usda.gov/wildflowers/pollinators/pollinator-of-the-month/fritillary.shtml#:~:text=The%20common%20nam e%20comes%20from.name%20because%20of%20such%20pattern.

Larval Host Plants





July 5th

• Parsley, Dill, Fennel, Queen Anne's Lace

No Surprise that there is a lot of overlap between plants and their many uses- sterile environments-with lack of diversity cause concern.

Pollinators/Food Source/Nectar Producing/Host Plants often are useful in our human diet.



Beneficial Insects

- Pollinators
 - Beetles
 - Soldier
 - Lightning Bugs
 - June Beetles
 - Flies
 - Wasps
 - Bees
 - Bumble
 - Mining or Digger Bees
 - Mason Bees
- Parasitoids
- Arthropods
 - Spiders, Centipede, Millipede





https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwisconsinpollinators.com% 2FGardening%2FG_Firefly.aspx&psig=AOvVaw0mG5t2zEtoIW3P2dceQ8NW&ust= 1617805652963000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAIQjRxqFwoTCMjojfbp6e8C FQAAAAdAAAAABAD







Good Guys: Predators









Attract Pollinators and Beneficial Insects by adding herbs, which provide shelter, nectar, larval food sources.

- Tiny flowers, like those found on herbs, provide the best pollen and nectar for beneficial insects. Because many of the beneficial insects are small, tiny flowers are easiest for them to feed from.
- Flowering plants that attract and conserve beneficials tend to have small, relatively open blossoms.
- Plants in the Asteraceae, (also called Compositae), Apiaceae or Umbelliferae, and Polygonaceae families are especially good choices.





For Information call: 321-633-1702 sasc@ufl.edu Fact Sheet # FS 6050 HORT Date: March 2006

Plants That Attract Beneficial Insects Sally Scalera

Apiaceae Herbs

Apiaceae, also called Umbelliferae, the parsley family, in the order <u>Apiales</u>, <u>comprising</u> about 434 genera and nearly 3,780 <u>species</u> of plants distributed throughout a wide variety of habitats, principally in the north temperate regions of the world. A number of species are economically important as leaf and root vegetables, <u>herbs and spices</u>, and garden ornamentals.

- <u>dill</u> (Anethum graveolens)
- <u>coriander/cilantro</u> (Coriandrum sativum)
- <u>cumin</u> (Cuminum cyminum)
- <u>dill</u> (Anethum graveolens)
- <u>fennel</u> (Foeniculum vulgare)
- <u>parsley</u> (Petroselinum crispum)
- parsnip (Pastinaca sativa)



https://www.britannica.com/topic/list-of-plants-in-the-family-Apiaceae-2038067

Polygonaceae Family

The Polygonaceae are a family of flowering plants known informally as the knotweed family or smartweed—buckwheat family in the United States. The name is based on the genus Polygonum, and was first used by Antoine Laurent de Jussieu in 1789 in his book, Genera Plantarum. <u>Wikipedia</u> Scientific name: Polygonaceae Order: <u>Caryophyllales</u>



Pixabay photos

Japanese Knotweed, Polygonum cuspidatum ODNR Division of Forestry 360 East State Street Athens, Ohio 45701 740-589-9910 or 614-247-8733 Contact anemarica.co.hiu of ann.bonner@dmr.state.oh.us



Japanese Knotweed is an upright, shrub-like, herbaccous perennial that can grow to over 10 feet in height. Stems of Japanese knotweed are smooth, stout and swollen at joints where the leaf meets the stem. As with all members of this family, the base of the stem above each joint is surrounded by a membranous sheath. Although leaf size may vary, they are normally about 6 inches long by 3 to 4 inches wide, broadly oval to somewhat triangular and pointed at the tip. The minute greenish-white flowers occur in attractive, branched sprays in summer and are followed soon after by small winged fruits. Seeds are triangular, shiny, and very small, about 1/10 inch long.



Numerous species of beetles, flies and bees pollinate "smartweed" plants. The seeds are eaten by small mammals and birds including waterfowl.



Close up of flowers © 2012 David D. Taylor



Close up of glandular hairs on upper stems @ 2012 David D. Taylor



Leaves showing dark mottling © 2012 David D Taylor

https://www.fs.usda.gov/wildflowers/plant-of-the-week/ polygonum_pensylvanicum.shtml

Asteraceae or Compositae

Asteraceae, also called Compositae, the <u>aster</u>, <u>daisy</u>, or <u>composite</u> family of the flowering-plant order <u>Asterales</u>. With more than 1,620 genera and 23,600 species of herbs, <u>shrubs</u>, and <u>trees</u> distributed throughout the world, Asteraceae is one of the largest <u>plant</u> families.Members of the family have <u>flower</u> heads composed of many small flowers, called <u>florets</u>, that are surrounded by bracts (leaflike structures). Bell-shaped disk florets form the centre of each head. Strap-shaped ray florets extend out like petals from the centre and are sometimes reflexed (bent back). Some species have <u>flowers</u> with only disk or only ray florets. The sepals have been reduced to a ring of hairs, scales, or bristles that is called the pappus on the mature fruit. The one-seeded fruit (an achene) has a hard outer covering.

- Chamomile
- Sunflowers
- Zinnia
- Calendula
- Yarrow





Yarrow - Achillea millefolium



Yarrow is an easy to grow, native perennial. It takes about 4 months to bloom, so it may not bloom first year from seed unless started indoors. Likes lots of sun.

Yarrow is a Host Plant for <u>Painted Lady</u> butterflies <u>Painted Lady</u> butterflies use many different plants as host plants, including Yarrow, <u>Hollyhock</u>, <u>Malva</u> and <u>Borage</u>.

http://www.butterflygardeningandconservation.com/plant/host/yarrow.php

Historically, yarrow has been used to treat wounds and infections. Its family name, Achillea, comes from the Greek hero, Achilles, who is said to have used this plant to treat the wounds of his soldiers after battle. Additionally, in Greek mythology itplace, after he had bathed in yarrow-infused water. was yarrow that gave Achilles his invincibility in the first Many Native American nations also rely on yarrow for its herbal and medicinal properties. Specifically, the Pawnee and Chippewa Nations who have historically and continually used yarrow poultices (or pastes) of the plant for headaches and other pains, while the Cherokee Nation often used a yarrow tea for flu-like symptoms. The wound-treating abilities of yarrow stem from its astringent properties, which reduces bleeding. In addition, yarrow is antiseptic, meaning that it can be used to treat a range of diseases caused by harmful microorganisms. There is some research to say that large doses of this herb can potentially be harmful and lead to increased photosensitivity, so be cautious with this plant. https://www.phillyorchards.org/2020/09/21/spotlight-on-yarrow-a-resilient-orchard-plant-herbal-ally/

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A. foeniculum flower

Meneekre bloem

CC BY-SA 3.0



🗯 Plant Detail



Lantana camara 'Miss Huff'

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Plants that fill a similar niche:

Common Name(s): Giant Hyssop; Hummingbird Mint



Phonetic Spelling

Description

Giant Hyssop is an herbaceous perennial in the mint family of which most are native to North America and many from the southwest. They are showy, fragrant, longblooming perennials with spikes of flowers that bloom most of the summer. Colors range from white to blue and shades of red and purple. Giant Hyssops are essential for a pollinator-friendly garden and have excellent resistance to browsing deer and rabbits. They are also heat and drought tolerant.

Well-drained soils are essential for this plant and wet winter feet in poorly drained soil will do them in. Plant in a raised bed or container if you have heavy soil. Use in a pollinator garden, rock garden or naturalized areas.

Children's Secret Garden- Wilson Botanical Garde	ins
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'Acapulco Orange' 🖻 Orange tubular flowers



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Form of "blue Fortune' Patrick Standish CC BY 2.0

https://extension.psu.edu/anise-hyssop-for-the-perennial-garden

https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/articles/anise-hyssop-agastache-foeniculum/

Anise hyssop is an important addition to pollinator and butterfly gardens as it provides nectar for bees. hummingbirds, and butterflies well into the fall season. Birds may eat seeds left on the stalks. The aromatic leaves can be used to make jellies and can be crumbled in salads. The seeds can be added to cookies or muffins. The aromatic dried leaves are a good addition to potpourris. Flower spikes can be an attractive addition to fresh cut or dried arrangements.

Reasons to Integrate Herbs Deter Pests

http://npic.orst.edu/factsheets/pyrethrins.html#:~:text=Pyrethrins%20are%20pesticides%20found%20naturally.ants%2C%20and%20many%20other%20pest https://www.echemi.com/cms/525188.html

Nasturtiums

- Deter pests from beans, cabbages and squash family
- But in some trials they attracted pests
- They grow better in poor soil maybe?



Marigolds

- Tagetes patula –
 French marigold
- Controls root-knot nematodes







 Can also be allelopathic: beans, cabbages



Reasons to Integrate Herbs

Herbs provide flowers and expand selection of recipes made from garden ingredients

Many herb flowers are edible!

Table 2: Recommen	ded plar	nts with edible fl	owers.		
Plant name	Type ¹	Flower color	Bloom	Taste	Fragrance
Abelmoschus aesculentus Okra, gumbo, gombo	A	Yellow, red	Mid-July to August	Mild, sweet and slightly mucilaginous	-
Agstache foeniculum Anise hyssop	P	Lavender	July to frost	Strong anise, sweet, licorice	_
<i>Alcea rosea</i> Hollyhock	Р	Various	July to frost	Little, slightly bitter	<u></u>
Allium schoenoprasum Chive	P	Lavender, red to purple	May to June	Onion, strong	Onion
Allium tuberosum Garlic chive	P	White	August to frost	Onion, strong	Onion
<i>Tropaeolum majus</i> Nasturtium	A	Varies	July to August	Watercress, peppery	

Р	White, pink, yellow, red, orange	May to June, September	Highly perfumed, sweet to bitter	; Rose
TP	Pale blue, dark blue, pink, white	Depends on cultivar	Mild rosemary	Delicate
TP	Scarlet	September	Pineapple/sage overtones	_
P	Blue, purple, white, pink	May to July	Flowery sage, slightly musky	-
A	Pink	July to August	Mildly peppery, spicy	-
Р	Pale blue to purple	July to August	Mildly peppery, spicy	
Ρ	Violet, pink, white	April to May	Sweet	Sweet
A	Violet, white, pink, yellow, multi-colored	May to July	Stronger than violets	_
	P TP TP P A	P White, pink, yellow, red, orange TP Pale blue, dark blue, pink, white TP Scarlet P Scarlet P Blue, purple, white, pink P Plnk P Pale blue to purple P Violet, pink, white A Violet, pink, white A Violet, pink, white	P White, pink, yellow, red, orange May to yune, september TP Pale blue, dark blue, pink, white Depends on cultivar TP Scarlet September TP Scarlet September P Blue, purple, white, pink July to August P Pale blue to purple July to August P Violet, pink, April to May A Violet, white, July to August	P White, pink, yellow, red, orange May to September Highly perfumed sweet to bitter TP Pale blue, dark blue, pink, white Depends on cultivar Mild rosemary on cultivar TP Scarlet September Pineapple/sage overtones P Blue, purple, white, pink July to July to August Flowery sage, slightly musky P Pale blue to July to August Mildly peppery, spicy Mildly peppery, spicy P Violet, pink, May to May to July to August Sweet Sweet P Violet, pink, April to May to July to August Sweet Sweet P Violet, pink, April to May to July to August Sweet Sweet



https://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/yard-garden/e dible-flowers-7-237/

Borage - Borago officinalis

Borage is an herb of the family Boraginaceae. Plants of the Borage family can be found all temperate and subtropical areas. There are about 2000 different species of plants in the borage family.

Borago officinalis can grow to be about 18 in. in height. Its flowers are a pretty blue color and kind of hang upside down like. Needs sun to part sun. It is an annual. It gets bristly hairs on the stems and leaves, which may be irritating to some people. Young leaves are edible. I'm not certain, but I don't believe it is native to the US.

Borage is used as a host plant by <u>Painted Lady</u> butterflies. They make nests within it by connecting the leaves together with silk.

Additionally, borage releases calcium and potassium into the soil, which can help other plants like squash and tomatoes to combat diseases such as blossom rot.

Interplant borage with:

- o <u>Tomatoes</u>
- Cabbage
- <u>Strawberries</u>
- Grapes
- o <u>Peas</u>
- <u>Beans</u>
- Cucumbers
- o <u>Squash</u>







Calendula - (Calendula officinalis)



Integrate Herbs through Companion Planting

 The establishment of two or more plant species in close proximity so that some cultural benefit is derived



Sweet Alyssum-Lobularia maritima



The small flowers are attractive to beneficial insects like this syrphid fly.

Flowers are produced over a long time – through the growing season or year-round in mild climates without frost. Each tiny flower has four petals. Many flowers are clustered together in dense terminal heads (racemes) and the plants may bloom so profusely that the foliage is completely obscured. The sweet smelling flowers have a honey-like fragrance and are very attractive to bees, flower flies, stingless wasps and butterflies. It is a particularly good nectar plant for beneficial insects as those tiny insects can easily access the tiny nectaries of the small flowers.

Sweet alyssum can be used as a seasonal



The tiny, four-petaled flowers (R) are borne in terminal racemes (C) that cover the plant (L).

https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/articles/sweet-alyssum-lobularia-maritima/

Companion Planting works by:

- Biodiversity/beneficial insects
 - Pest control (biochemical, trap crops)
 - Symbiotic relationship
 - Increased crop diversity
 - Physical interaction (shade, fast-slow growing)



Be Aware: Allelopathy

- Greek: Allelon

 "of each
 other", pathy =
 "to suffer"
- Black Walnut



How to Start Companion Planting.

- Pick your favorite plant.
- Do you have the space?
- Avoid planting together:
- -plants of same family (except cabbages)
- -plants that use the same nutrients
- -plants with similar root zones



HERB SELECTION

- Environmental requirements
 Perennials
- Plant characteristics
 - Foliage color & texture
 - Bloom color and time
 - Mature Height (example– Dill 3-5 feet mature)





HERB CULTURE

• Full sun

–6-8 hours of direct sunlight

 Exceptions--- part sun/part shade: menthes (mints), monardas (bee balm)

- Soil
 - -Well drained
 - •Sandy
 - -Not overly fertile

•Low Nitrogen



Harvesting Herbs

- Continuously rather than one time
- Harvest one-third to one-half of the plant before flowering
- Mid morning
 - -After dew has dried,
 - before heat of the day
 - Ideally, wait one day after rain if drying herbs



Harvesting Herbs

• <u>Root Crops</u> - Fall

– Ginger, Garlic, Onions

- Annuals & Biennials All season
- Flowers As soon as flowers open

Lavender, marigold, rosemary

- <u>Seeds</u> Let ripen on plant
- Perennials & Biennials Anytime except late fall

Harvesting and Preserving

Highlights

Harvesting:

- •Flowers Pick as they fully open
- •Seeds Fully ripe (no green showing)
- •Leaves depends on the species

Preserving:

- Freezing Rinse well, pat dry, cut into small pieces and place on waxed paper or ice cube tray wrapped in freezer bags.
 Drying:
- •Similar to dehydrator directions; bundle stems removing leaves near base, secure with elastic band, hang in dark cool location.

Dried Herbs Versus Fresh Herbs -Dry -add @ the beginning of recipe -Fresh-add @ the end of recipe -Double the fresh amount used

Cooking

Harvesting and Preserving

Highlights

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Herbs to Repel Insect Pests

Lemongrass (a Mississippi medallion winner!)

Lemon balm,

Bee balm

Lemon thyme

Rosemary

Lavender

Basil

Mint

Catnip

Note: Rubbing crushed plant material on your clothing or skin is likely more helpful than the plant's presence on the porch. A word of caution, the volatile oils produced by these plants may irritate your skin.

ASU DAFVM Calendar Add Event News B



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

https://extension.msstate.edu/blog/can-fragrant-plants-help-repel-insects# --text=MSU%20Extension%20horticulture%20specialist%20Gary.may% 20help%20deter%20these%20pests.

Reduce and Eliminate Pesticides - Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

- The most important thing you can do to protect and encourage beneficial insects in your garden and landscape is to choose insecticides carefully. Many beneficials are more sensitive to insecticides than the pests you are trying to control.
- While it is true that beneficials can reduce your pesticide use, realistically, you will still have to use pesticides to deal with serious pest outbreaks from time to time. The key is to choose products that have little or no residual activity. While the beneficials present when you spray will be killed, new ones coming into your garden will not be affected.



These insecticides include:

- insecticidal soap
- horticultural oil
- botanical insecticides such as neem, pyrethrins, rotenone, and sabadilla.

The botanicals do have brief periods of residual activity, but they are much shorter than most synthetic insecticides. Most break down rapidly when exposed to the sun.



- One U.S. farm feeds 166 people annually in the U.S. and abroad. The global population is expected to increase by 2.2 billion by 2050, which means the world's farmers will have to grow about 70% more food than what is now produced.
- More than half of America's farmers intentionally provide habitat for wildlife. Deer, moose, birds and other species have shown significant population increases for decades.
- Careful stewardship by America's food producers has spurred a 34% decline in erosion of cropland by wind and water since 1982.
- Americans throw away about 25% of the food they purchase for at-home consumption.
- A whopping 40% of all food grown and produced in the U.S. is never eaten.
- Total U.S. corn yield (tons per acre) has increased more than 360% since 1950.
- Of the 10% of disposable income Americans spend on food each year, 46% is for food eaten at home and 54% is for food eaten away from home.

https://www.fb.org/newsroom/fast-facts#:~:text=Many%20Americans%20celebrate%20holidays%20with.in%20the%20U.S.%20and%20abroad.



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https://extension.psu.edu/anise-hyssop-for-the-perennial-garden https://extension.psu.edu/attracting-beneficial-insects https://www.gardenclub.org/blog/herbs-attract-beneficial-insects

https://howtoculinaryherbgarden.com/herbs-that-attract-butterflies/ https://extension.illinois.edu/blogs/ilriverhort/2015-05-15-butterfly-la rvae-food-plants



For Information call: 321-633-1702 sasc@ufl.edu

Fact Sheet # FS 6050 HORT Date: March 2006

Plants That Attract Beneficial Insects

Sally Scalera





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