

Auglaize County ANR

News from OSU Extension

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Alternative to Callery Pear

Authors: Ashley Kulhanek, Ann Chanon. Edited by Jamie Hampton

As you may now know, Callery Pear, and its cultivars are officially on the Ohio Invasive Plants List. On Saturday, January 7, 2023 it became ILLEGAL to plant, grow, propagate, or sell Callery Pear in Ohio. If you have a Callery pear tree on your property, you will NOT be required to remove it. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources suggests you take steps to control the plant, so the invasiveness of the plant is halted. It is now deemed to be an invasive species in many states and similar bans have gone into effect in Pennsylvania and South

Carolina. Callery Pear is a small, deciduous flowering tree native to China that that was originally brought to the U.S. as a source of resistance to the disease fire blight. It became popular as a landscape tree for its white flowers, site adaptability, and compact size. Individual trees cannot self-pollinate but can and do hybridize with other native, or domesticated pears, resulting in a fertile fruit. This resulted in the trees' spread by birds and wildlife, which soon choked native plants and invaded disturbed areas and forests. However, with an

arguably stinky flower, messy fruit, weak branch angles, and its tendency to spread and invade... maybe it is worth considering a replacement tree. But what to choose? If you are looking for a white-flowered alternative to Callery Pear in your landscape, or just need some suggestions for a new tree, consider White Eastern Redbud, White Crabapple, Carolina Silverbells, Dogwood, Sweet bay Magnolia, or Tree Lilac. For the Full Article Click [HERE](#)

Benefits of Companion Planting

Author Catherine Boeckmann, Edited by Jamie Hampton



As we continue our discussion on gardening, let's take a moment to look at a few of the benefits for companion planting. There are plenty more good reasons to plant certain crops together:

Deterring pests: Certain plants act as insect repellents or deter critters. For example, garlic's smell is unappealing to many pests.

Attracting beneficials: Some plants also attract beneficial insects. For example, borage attracting pollinating bees and tiny pest-eating wasps.

Shade regulation: Large plants provide shade for smaller plants in need of sun protection. For example, corn shades lettuce.

Natural supports: Tall plants, like corn and sunflowers, can support lower-growing, sprawling crops such as cucumbers and peas.

Improved plant health: When one plant absorbs certain substances from the soil, it may change the soil biochemistry in favor of nearby plants.

Improving soil fertility: Some crops, like beans, peas, and other legumes, help to make nitrogen more available in the soil. Similarly, plants with long taproots, like burdock, bring up nutrients from deep in the soil, enriching the topsoil to the benefit of shallow-rooted plants.

Weed suppression: Planting sprawling crops like potatoes with tall, upright plants minimizes open areas, where weeds typically take hold.

Come back next week for a look at some evidence based companion planting philosophies.

For the full article click [HERE](#)

Companion Planting; Tomatoes

Author Amber Kanuckel, Edited by Jamie Hampton



Companion planting is a great way to maximize the efficiency of your garden. For almost every vegetable you grow, there is likely to be a beneficial companion plant that will help increase soil nutrients, chase away pests, and help you get the most out of your garden.

Tomatoes:

Friends: Basil and tomatoes were made to go together, not only in sauces but in the garden, too. This herb helps tomatoes produce greater yields and it repels both flies and mosquitoes. Marigolds are another good companion, repelling nematodes and other garden pests. Other friends to tomatoes include asparagus, carrots, celery, the onion family, lettuce, parsley, and spinach.

Foes: Cabbage, beets, peas, fennel, dill, and rosemary. Corn and tomatoes both suffer from the corn earworm, and tomatoes and potatoes are affected by the same blight, so keep these plants separate to prevent the spread of pests or disease.

We will continue to cover companion planting for the next few weeks.

<https://www.farmersalmanac.com/companion-planting-guide>

April Events



Auglaize County Events:

- March 30th, Final Soil Health Webinar
- April 14th, Cover Crop Roundtable at Happy Daz in Wapakoneta. 8:30 am
- April 19th, Beef Quality Assurance at Allen County Fairgrounds. 6-8:00 pm

Nearby Happenings:



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

OSU Extension Auglaize County

Jamie Hampton ANR Extension Educator

208 Blackhoof Street

Wapakoneta, Ohio 45895

Hampton.297@osu.edu

419-910-6062