



FBMG Help Desk  
**Question of the Week**

Are there aromatic plants that repel undesirable insects?

*Answer: Indeed, there are many!*



# Using Aromatic Plants to Repel Pests

**Creating a mixture of plants that attract beneficial insects, while repelling harmful insects and pests, can reduce your workload and reduce insecticide usage.**



*Fennel repels aphids, slugs and snails*



*Lavender attracts beneficial bugs, repels fleas and moths*



*Lemongrass repels mosquitoes with its strong fragrance*



*Nasturtiums repels woolly aphids, whiteflies, squash bugs and cucumber beetles*



*Parsley repels asparagus beetles*

# Using Aromatic Plants to Repel Pests



*Rosemary repels cabbage moths, carrot flies, and bean beetles*



*Dill attracts hoverflies and predatory wasps, repels aphids, squash bugs, spider mites, cabbage loopers and tomato hornworms*



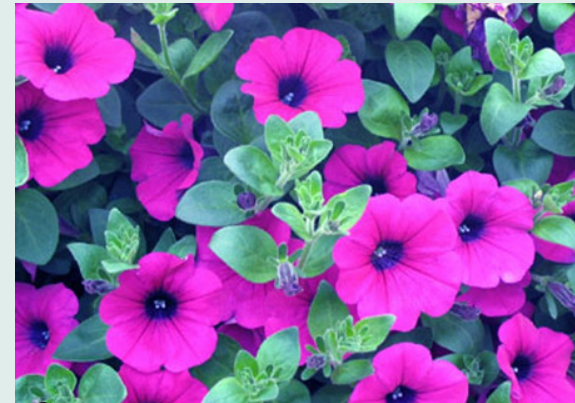
*Chives repel aphids and mites*



*Mint repels aphids, cabbage moths, and flea beetles*



*Sage repels flea beetles*



*Scented petunias repels aphids, tomato hornworms, asparagus beetles, leafhoppers and squash bugs*

# Using Aromatic Plants to Repel Pests



*Borage repels tomato hornworms and cabbage worms, attracts beneficial bees and wasps.*



*Chrysanthemum repels roaches, ants, Japanese beetles, ticks, silverfish, lice, fleas, bedbugs, spider mites, harlequin bugs and root-knot nematodes*



*Geranium repels leafhoppers and Japanese beetles*



*Lovage attracts ground beetles and Ichneumonid Wasps, which are beneficial bugs*



*Garlic repels rabbits, ants and aphids*



*Thyme repels whiteflies, cabbage loopers, corn earworms, tomato hornworms and small whites*

# Using Aromatic Plants to Repel Pests

**Include companion plant combinations of aromatics with vegetables and other plants to encourage growth and production**



*Dill and basil planted among tomatoes protect the tomatoes from hornworms*



*French marigolds secrete toxic compounds of an  $\alpha$ -terthienyl type which kills nematodes. Plant with tomatoes, which are susceptible to nematodes.*



*Oregano plant near broccoli, cabbage, and cauliflower to repel cabbage butterfly and near cucumbers to repel cucumber beetle*



*Borage plant for tomatoes, squash, strawberries. Deters tomato hornworms and cabbage worms.*

*\* To be effective marigolds must be planted as a solid crop and grown for 90 days to begin secreting the three compounds of an  $\alpha$ -terthienyl type to reduce the nematode population.*

***Do you have questions  
about your home  
landscape and plants?***

***Contact the Fort Bend  
Master Gardener Help Desk***

***Email:  
FortBendmg@ag.tamu.edu***

***Phone:  
281-341-7068***

***The Help Desk is manned  
Monday thru Friday,  
9am-Noon***

***Fort Bend Master Gardener Vegetable  
and Herb Sale, March 11***

*For more information, see the following website...*

*<https://fbmg.org/event/fort-bend-master-gardeners-spring-vegetable-and-herb-sale-open-to-the-public/>*



***References:***

*[https://hcmga.tamu.edu/files/2018/05/2018-05-urban-dirt-hcmga\\_public.pdf](https://hcmga.tamu.edu/files/2018/05/2018-05-urban-dirt-hcmga_public.pdf)*

*<https://txmg.org/galveston/wp-content/blogs.dir/114/files/2023/01/Herb-Book.pdf>*

*<https://aggiehort.tamu.edu/plantanswers/publications/miniput.html>*

*<https://aggiehorticulture.tamu.edu/vegetable/guides/organic-vegetable-production-guide/managing-pests/>*

*<https://txmg.org/orange/files/2017/03/COMPANION-PLANTING-GUIDE.pdf>*