



CROP/
PLANTING



Holesome Living Farms

Reducing reliance on agro-chemicals through companion planting in a market garden.

SUMMARY:

Holesome Living Farm has proposed testing companion planting to increase planting space in garden and to reduce reliance on agro-chemicals for pest management. Companion planting (or partner planting) is a method of gardening which pairs plants that can offer benefits to one another in close proximity.

Holesome Living's Experimental Acres will include:

1. One plot of conventionally grown vegetables (planted in evenly spaced rows)
2. Several plots of companion plants

Yield between the conventional and companion plots will be compared. Funding for this project will be used to spread compost across the full garden space and purchase supplies needed for best growing practices (drip tape irrigation, T bars etc).

SIZE OF TEST AREA

~50 ft by 20 ft

TESTING

- Comparative soil testing (P,K, OM, EC)
- Aggregate stability, infiltration, compaction and green cover monitoring
- Pest Monitoring
- Plant vitality testing (height, leaf count)

RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

- How can market garden planting be optimized for biodiversity?
- What companion planting combinations can be used to reduce pest pressure in a market garden?
- How can ecological monitoring be used to determine annual planting success?