I tried to make a list of pages to visit that would make a decent crash course in companion planting. If there are still questions let me know.

**Information about companion planting**

The closest thing to what we would be doing is the Dave’s Garden website. I suggest taking a look at it for a few minutes. Also, take note of how users can update the database as it would be good for us to do have that feature too.

Overview of the database: <http://davesgarden.com/guides/>

From the above page, go to PlantFiles and poke around there for a little bit to get a feel for it. The information on vegetables is more what we would be looking for. The stuff on flowers is much less important because there are very few flowers that are good for companion planting.

The information on The Farmer’s Almanac page is useful but does not contain everything we would need: <http://www.almanac.com/plant/bell-peppers>

Explanation of companion planting (contains the Three Sisters example in the History section: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Companion_planting>

The most extreme form of companion planting: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forest_gardening>

USDA growing zones: <http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/>

This website has good comparison charts and growing info (change the tabs above the picture): <http://www.highmowingseeds.com/Organic-Non-GMO-Pink-Bumblebee-Tomato-Seeds.html>

Another example of seed information from a producer (it has different information than High Mowing Seeds): <http://sustainableseedco.com/heirloom-vegetable-seeds/pe-t/tomato-heirloom-seeds/red-pink-tomato-seeds/beefsteak-tomato-seeds.html>

Planting schedules contain three types of information: When to start the seed (if seed can be started inside), when to plant / transplant outside, and when to harvest. All three are a range of dates. They usually only contain the most popular types of plants and some cultivars, such as the Everglades Tomato, can be harvested all year long if kept warm enough as opposed to the tomatoes on this schedule: <http://www.ufseeds.com/Zone-9-Planting-Calendar.html>

* If the dates are all recorded in the database, we could eventually generate highly customized schedules for starting seeds inside, transplanting / planting outside, and harvesting. (Not required but really useful for the user)

Functions of the database and web page:

Main function: checking plants for compatibility. The easiest way I can think of would be for someone to add plants to a list and then check the list. Users would likely want a different list for each area of their garden. Also, it would be nice for a user to be able to save these lists.

Other optional features: Search for plants/cultivars by a specific property (pest and disease resistance would be popular), seed starting schedule, outdoor planting schedule, harvesting schedule, suggested plants for either the state, the zone, or both

Very optional features that we probably won’t have time to do: graphical garden planner using plants from a list, program-generated garden plans, watering schedule, fertilizing schedule, whether cultivars are edible for goats/chickens/dogs, where to buy seeds/plants

Note: I only put the word “seeds” in the above stuff but it could refer to seeds or rhizomes (sometimes you have to have a chunk of a root to grow a new plant). Also, some perennials can be started from either seeds or one can buy the roots of a plant that has already been growing (for 1-7 years) and plant those to get a head start). I don’t think we have to include the already-growing roots in the schema but can instead handle that in a notes section for a cultivar.