



## Barrington Community Garden Organic Guidelines

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The Barrington Community Garden is an organic garden where the use of synthetic fertilizers, insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides is not allowed. Proper cultivation techniques, such as mulching, hoeing, proper watering, plant spacing, and hand-weeding, can address most garden issues. However, materials and products that are allowed, if and when needed, are contained on two lists:

- Materials that are approved for use in organic gardens by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's **National Organic Program (NOP)**;<sup>1</sup> and
- Products on the **Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI)** Product List for crop production.<sup>2</sup>

Below is a short, but not comprehensive, list of some allowed materials. Most commercial products suitable for organic use will be labeled as such or carry the OMRI logo, but pay attention to the ingredients; don't go by brand or company name. Consult the sources above for more extensive lists of allowed materials and products or ask one of the garden steering committee members.

### **Fertility and Soil Amendments**

- Finished compost (plant, manure, lobster, etc.)
- Compost tea
- Cover crops (e.g., winter rye)
- Animal and plant products, such as:
  - bone, blood, and feather meal
  - alfalfa and soybean meal (non-GMO)
  - kelp/seaweed
  - fish emulsion
- Rock minerals, such as:
  - High-calcium agricultural lime and dolomitic limestone
  - Rock phosphates
  - Gypsum
  - Epsom salts

### **Weed Control/Treatment**

- Mulch to suppress weed growth, such as:
  - Paper that is not glossy and free from colored ink (in some commercial paper mulches)
  - Straw (NOT hay – regular hay has seeds!) or salt marsh hay
  - Aged wood chips (from untreated wood only)
- Herbicidal soaps (non-specific weed killer)
- Corn gluten meal (non-GMO) (suppresses germination, so not where you will be planting seed)

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1. U.S. Code Title 7: Agriculture, Part 205-National Organic Program, Subpart G-Administrative (<http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?c=ecfr&SID=9874504b6f1025eb0e6b67cadf9d3b40&rgn=div6&view=text&node=7:3.1.1.9.32.7&idno=7>).

2. <http://www.omri.org/omri-lists/download>.



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### **Insect Pests and Diseases** (be sure you know what you are treating; don't treat indiscriminately)

- Biological and microbial products, such as:
  - Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt)
  - Bacillus subtilis
  - Spinosad
- Organic insecticidal soap
- Diatomaceous earth
- Minerals, such as:
  - Elemental sulfur
  - Copper sulfate
  - Sodium/potassium bicarbonate
  - Kaolin clay
- Oils - narrow range petroleum, vegetable, and fish oils
- Pheromones and pheromone traps
- Plant-derived substances, such as:
  - Neem
  - Pyrethrum
- Sticky Traps

### **Allowable Construction Material**

Any natural or inert material that will not readily degrade is suitable for use in constructing raised beds, plant cages, and trellis structures at the BCG, with preference given to the following:

- Untreated wood (wood should be presumed treated unless there is information to the contrary).
- Brick
- Stone
- Cinderblocks
- Metal (e.g., aluminum, copper, steel), including wire
- Sisal/Jute/Twine
- Bamboo stakes

Materials not suitable for use at the BCG include:

- Arsenic-treated wood or old railroad ties
- Plastic lumber
- Plastic or synthetic mulch
- **Plastic mesh netting**, plastic construction fencing

The use of plastic-coated cages or stakes, synthetic row covers, and PVC piping for constructing plant cages or trellis structures is permitted for the duration of the growing season.

***Remember, the BCG is a shared space; consider aesthetics when designing your garden.***