



Barrington Community Garden Organic Guidelines

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

- Materials approved for use in organic gardens by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's **National Organic Program (NOP)**; U.S. Code Title 7: Agriculture, Part 205-National Organic Program, Subpart G (<http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?rgn=div5&node=7:3.1.1.9.32#sg7.3.205.g.sg0>); and,
- Products listed on the **Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI)** Product List for crop production (<http://www.omri.org/omri-lists/download>).

Below is a short list of allowed materials; this list is not comprehensive. Most commercial products suitable for organic use will be labeled as such or carry the OMRI logo. Consult the sources above for more complete listings.

Fertility and Soil Amendments (should only be used when known to be needed)

- Animal and plant products, such as bone, blood, or feather meal; kelp/seaweed; or fish emulsion
- Finished compost (plant, manure, lobster, etc.)
- Compost tea
- Green manure and cover crops (e.g., winter rye)
- Rock minerals, such as agricultural lime, dolomitic lime, greensand, rock phosphates, and gypsum

Weed Control

- Mulch, such as straw, salt-marsh hay, newsprint, or commercial mulch made of non-glossy, non-colored paper.
- Non-GMO corn gluten meal (pre-emergent control – prevents seeds from sprouting)
- Agricultural vinegar (non-specific – will kill anything)

Plant Pests and Diseases (should only be used when known to be needed and effective for problem condition)

- Biological and microbial products, such as *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt), *Bacillus subtilis*, or spinosad
- Organic insecticidal soap
- Diatomaceous earth
- Minerals, such as elemental sulfur; potassium or sodium bicarbonate; kaolin clay; or copper/lime mixture
- Horticultural oils - narrow range petroleum, vegetable, and fish oils
- Pheromones and pheromone traps; sticky traps
- Plant-derived substances, such as pyrethrum

Allowable Construction Material

Any natural or inert material is suitable for use in constructing raised beds, plant cages, and trellis structures, such as:

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

Materials that are not allowed for constructing raised beds, plant cages, and trellis structures at the BCG include:

- CCA-treated wood or old railroad ties
- Plastic lumber
- Plastic or synthetic mulch

Plastic-coated cages, stakes, black nylon/plastic trellis netting (but not orange construction fencing), plastic cable ties, synthetic row covers, and PVC piping for constructing plant cages or trellis structures is permitted; however, *all plastic/synthetic material must be removed at the end of each season. Raised bed structures may stay.*

If you have questions, just ask us.