



## 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.***