



Barrington Community Garden Organic Guidelines

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, proper watering, plant spacing, and hand-weeding, can address most garden issues. 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)**; and
- Products on the **Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI)** Product List for crop production.



Following is a short list of some allowed materials and products for various uses. Consult the sources above for additional allowed materials/ products or *ask one of the BCG Steering Committee members* for further assistance.

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
 - kelp/seaweed
 - fish emulsion
- Rock minerals, such as:
 - Agricultural lime and dolomitic limestone
 - Gypsum
 - Epsom salts

Weed Control/Treatment

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



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

- Biological and microbial products, such as:
 - Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt)
 - Bacillus subtilis
 - Spinosad (e.g., Captain Jack's Dead Bug Brew)
- 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
 - Pyrethrins (not pyrethroids, which are synthetic)

Construction Material

Any natural or inert material that will not readily degrade is suitable for use in constructing 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).
- 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.