

## **Organic Guidelines**

Thank you for your cooperation in the use of organic practices in our community garden for the health of our garden and the people in it.

*Organic agriculture is a production system that sustains the health of soils, ecosystems and people. It relies on ecological processes, biodiversity and cycles adapted to local conditions, rather than the use of inputs with adverse effects. Organic agriculture combines tradition, innovation and science to benefit the shared environment and promote fair relationships and a good quality of life for all involved..."—International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements*

Fertilization and pest control in organic gardens can be best managed by growing healthy plants in fertile soil that is amended with compost. In addition, the use of appropriate plant spacing, crop rotation and companion plantings will assist in creating a healthy garden environment.

### **FERTILIZERS**

Compost to provide nutrients and soil structure will go a long way in establishing healthy, productive plants limiting the need for additional fertilizers.

#### **Recommended Organic Fertilizers**

- Compost (provides Nitrogen-N, Phosphorus-P, Potassium-K)
- Alfalfa meal (N)
- Soybean meal (N)
- Blood meal (N)
- Seaweed (N)
- Fish emulsion (N,P)
- Bonemeal (P)
- Rock phosphate (P)
- Greensand (K)
- Gypsum (Calcium)
- Ground limestone (to raise soil pH)
- Dolomitic limestone (to raise soil pH)

#### **Prohibited Fertilizers**

- Synthetic fertilizers of any kind – such as MiracleGro
- Any formulations containing sewage sludge - such as Milorganite
- DAP and MAP (ammonium phosphates)
- Chilean nitrate
- Superphosphate
- Muriate of potash
- Charcoal ashes
- Cigarette ashes

## **PESTICIDES**

Healthy plants start with a healthy soil and maintaining a balance of beneficial insects or good bugs to control the so-called bad bugs. Crop rotation and the use of companion plants will create a naturally balanced environment. However, if pest problems do develop, the following pest controls can be utilized. Always follow the application instructions on the product label.

### **Recommended Pesticides**

- Beneficial insects (ladybugs, praying mantis, trichogramma wasps, etc.)
- Hand-picking
- Traps (pheromone, sticky, water, etc.)
- Row covers
- Spraying with garlic, onion, or vegetable oil and/or pepper sprays
- Insecticidal soaps
- Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*)
- Chitin
- Diatomaceous earth
- Bicarbonates (baking soda, potassium bicarbonate)
- Sulfur
- Isopropyl alcohol
- Hydrogen peroxide

### **Permitted with Caution**

- Neem oil
- Pyrethrum

### **Prohibited Pesticides**

- Synthetic pesticides, insecticides or fungicides of any kind (Bug-B-Gon, Captan, Diazinon, Insectagon, Kelthane, Lindane, Sevin, Malathion, etc.)
- Nicotine in any form
- Formulations containing copper (such as Bordeaux Mix)
- Rotenone
- Pyrethroids (synthetic pyrethrum)

## **HERBICIDES**

Please note that for the protection of all the garden plots, application of herbicides (weed killers) is prohibited as per the Community Garden Agreement.

- **Prohibited Herbicides**
  - Synthetic herbicides of any kind (Preen 'n Green, Weed-B-Gon, Round-up, etc.)