

# Organic Gardening Tips

## for Weston Community Gardeners



In order to maintain the community garden soil for the long-term and be good stewards to the environment, Section 2(d) of the Weston Community Garden Policies states that:

Only organic, non-synthetic soil amendments such as compost, manure, bone meal, oyster shell lime, fish emulsion, etc. are permitted. Synthetic fertilizers (e.g. MiracleGro, Osmacote) are not permitted. Non-organic pesticides (e.g. Round-Up) are not permitted.

Thank you for helping to care for the garden by practicing organic gardening methods in your community garden plot. This flyer provides more information about which products are OK to use in the Weston Community Gardens.

### How do I know what commercial soil amendments, fertilizers, & pesticides I can use in the Weston Community Gardens?

The Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) provides a **Product List** of commercial soil amendments, fertilizers, and pesticides permitted for use in certified organic crop production. These are the products that are allowed in the Weston Community Gardens. If this product is not listed on the **OMRI Product List**, it is not permitted in the Weston Community Gardens.

**You can search the OMRI Product List at: [www.omri.org/omri-lists](http://www.omri.org/omri-lists)**

### Is there a label that will tell me if a certain commercial soil amendment, fertilizer, or pesticide is OK to use in the Weston Community Gardens?

Look for the “OMRI Listed” label (shown to the right) or for wording that says:

- “This product is allowed for use in organic production”
- “Meets National Organic Program requirements for organic production”
- “Suitable for organic farming”
- “Acceptable for use in organic production”
- “Meets the requirements of the National Organic Program for use in organic production”
- “This product is listed by the Organic Materials Review Institute for use in organic production”



## What are some common conventional garden products that aren't allowed in the Weston Community Gardens?

- MiracleGro
- Round-Up
- Glyphosates (generic Round-Up products)
- Sevin
- Carbaryls (generic Sevin products)

## What about home-made garden products and pest remedies that don't have labels?

Home-made style garden products and pest remedies (e.g. garlic-and-onion or lemon-and-pepper sprays, soap bags to deter deer, peppermint oil, etc.) are permitted as long as they don't include toxic or hazardous ingredients or ingredients that are listed as "prohibited" on the **OMRI Generic Materials List**. The **OMRI Generic Materials List** is a catalog of over 900 materials and their statuses in organic production, processing, and handling under the USDA National Organic Program. It is available at [www.omri.org/omri-lists](http://www.omri.org/omri-lists).

The use of compost, mulch, and cover crops to enrich and protect your garden soil is encouraged.

## How can I learn more about organic gardening?

The internet and library are full of organic gardening resources. Here are few places to start:

- 5 simple organic gardening tips  
[http://organic-center.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/TOC\\_GardeningTips\\_2pager\\_2c2.pdf](http://organic-center.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/TOC_GardeningTips_2pager_2c2.pdf)
- An introduction to organic gardening techniques  
[www.mostlyorganicgarden.com/organic-gardening-techniques](http://www.mostlyorganicgarden.com/organic-gardening-techniques)
- An introduction to natural pest control  
[http://eartheasy.com/grow\\_nat\\_pest\\_cntrl.htm](http://eartheasy.com/grow_nat_pest_cntrl.htm)
- A list of 10 organic gardening books  
<http://borntofarm.com/my-top-10-organic-gardening-books/>

If you have further questions, please contact:

Weston Garden Coordinator at 781-899-4045, [weston.community.gardens@gmail.com](mailto:weston.community.gardens@gmail.com)  
Town of Weston Conservation staff at 781-865-5067, [conservation@westonmass.org](mailto:conservation@westonmass.org)



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