

Calimesa Community Garden Goes Organic!

As of February 1, 2015, in the interest of health and good stewardship of the land and its produce, the CCG and its members shall garden utilizing only organic principles and practices. Organic methods promote a healthy ecosystem for birds, insects, plants, microorganisms, and people. The use of chemical pesticides (including fungicides, herbicides, weed killers, and insecticides) is prohibited. Only natural organic practices, and organic fertilizers, pesticides, fungicides or herbicides may be used. Consideration must be given to weather and wind conditions even when applying any organic treatments or additives to your garden.

Organic gardening emphasizes working with nature, soil building, preventing problems before they occur, and using only natural, non-toxic or minimally toxic substances if intervention is required. The first line of pest control for the organic grower is evaluation and maximization of the soil to provide nutrients for your plants. Healthy plants are more resilient to pests and disease.

FERTILIZERS: Gardeners will not use any synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, fungicides or herbicides. Instead, for fertility they use compost, manure, organic rock powders, worm castings, as well as, other organic fertilizers and supplements.

PEST CONTROL: Natural methods like companion planting promote growing plants that attract beneficial insects and repel harmful ones. If intervention is required, use only natural, non-toxic or minimally toxic substances like organic repellents and oils.

DISEASE CONTROL: Most diseases such as black spot, brown patch, powdery mildew and other fungal problems are controlled by prevention through soil improvement, crop rotation, avoidance of high-nitrogen fertilizers and proper watering. Outbreaks may be controlled by use of potassium bicarbonate, worm compost tea, cornmeal juice, diluted milk, organic oil and sprays, mineral products, and other recognized organic sprays.

TABLE BELOW INCLUDES, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, SOME SUBSTANCES THAT ARE ALLOWED & PROHIBITED.

PEST , DISEASE, & WEED CONTROL	Allowed	Prohibited
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - actinovate - bacillus thuringiensis(Bt) - baking soda - beneficial insects (lady bugs, lace wings, etc.) - beneficial nematodes - diatomaceous earth - organic oils - hydrogen peroxide - insect traps - liquid copper - netting - Nolo bait - pepper/onion/garlic/soap/milk sprays - Sluggo - Spinosad - sulfur - worm casting tea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - borax, boric acid (excess damages soil) - chlorpyrifos - Diazinon - Dursban - Finale - herbicides (chemical weed killers) - malathion - methoxychlor - nicotine sulfate - organ chlorides - organophosphates - pyrethrum (pyrethrate, pyrethroids) - rotenone - Roundup - Sevin
FERTILIZERS & SOIL ADDITIVES	Allowed	Prohibited
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - alfalfa meal, blood meal, bone meal, cottonseed - meal, fish meal, horn, and hoof meal - compost - organic fertilizers & foliar sprays classed as organic - greensand - kelp - manure—aged/composted - mycorrhizae - molasses - rock dust - seaweed & fish emulsions - wormcastings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ammonium nitrate a - ammonium sulfate - chemical fertilizers (Miracle Grow, Peter's, Ozmocote, Expert, 5-10-10, etc. - muriate of potash - superphosphates

Please, contact a board member if, after careful research, you are unable to determine if a product is organic & allowed.