

# St. Pius Community Garden Organic Guidelines

The St. Pius community garden encourages all gardeners gardening in the church's plots to follow organic principles. This is defined as 'an ecological production management system that promotes and enhances biodiversity, biological cycles, and soil biological activity. It is based on minimal use of inputs and on management practices that restore, maintain and enhance ecological harmony.' This is to say the emphasis should be working with nature, building healthy soil, preventing problems before they occur then using only natural, non-toxic substances if intervention is required.

Please carefully review any soil additives (check the labels!) before using in the garden to ensure the garden remains organic and productive for years to come.

## **Fertilizers**

Organic compost is the top choice. It provides nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium along with other elements that lead to optimal soil health. The following is a list of approved fertilizers.

### Recommended Fertilizers

- organic compost
- animal manures (dried, not fresh)
- alfalfa meal
- blood meal
- kelp or seaweed (liquid or powder)
- fish emulsion
- rock phosphate
- bone meal
- wood ashes
- greensand

### Prohibited Fertilizers

- synthetic fertilizers of any kind (Miracle Gro and the like)
- any formulations containing sewage sludge (Milogranite)
- DAP and MAP
- Chilean nitrate
- superphosphate
- muriate of potash
- charcoal ashes (from outdoor grills)

## **Pesticides**

Organic methods promote a harmony and balance between birds, insects, plants, microorganisms and the people who farm and eat the bounty of the garden. The first line of defense against common pests is high quality soil, plants receiving proper sunlight and water, crop rotation, and simple observations done while in the garden. The following list should only be considered as a last ditch effort to prevent a true pest problem from spreading.

### Recommended Pesticides

- beneficial insects (ladybugs, praying mantis, lacewings)
- hand picking infected leaves or bugs off of leaves
- traps (pheromone, water, beer, etc.)
- row covers
- spraying with garlic, onion or vegetable oil
- insecticidal soaps (biodegradable soap only)
- BT (bacillus thuringiensis)
- chitin
- diatomaceous earth
- hydrogen peroxide (not to be used around leafy greens or other delicate plants)

### Prohibited Pesticides

- Neem, Pyrethrum, Quassia, Ryania, Sabadilla
- synthetic pesticides, insecticides or fungicides of any kind (Bug B Gon, Captan, Sevin, etc)
- nicotine of any form
- formulations containing copper (Bordeaux Mix)
- Rotenone
- Pyrethroids
- Roundup, Weed-B-Gon, Preen 'n Green, ect