

ACCEPTABLE AND UNACCEPTABLE GARDEN PRODUCTS

ACCEPTABLE PRODUCTS SUPPLIED AT EACH GARDEN

The Garden Committee will supply these products for all gardeners to use as needed:

Pro-Gro (5-3-4) – North Country Organics general-purpose fertilizer. Use in the early spring before planting and again during the season as a side-dressing. “Promotes healthy soil and plants. Contains cottonseed meal, alfalfa meal, feather meal, rock phosphate, kelp meal, cocoa meal, blood meal, fish meal, crab meal, dried whey, natural nitrate of soda, natural sulfate of potash, magnesium sulfate.”

Fish Emulsion/Kelp (3-2-2) – Organic Growers Supply. Improves plant vigor and stress resistance. Mix 2 Tbsp. with a gallon of water and water directly on leaves every 2-3 weeks. If watering the soil only, use 4 Tbsp. per gallon.

Lime – use to raise the pH of soil if it is too acidic and loosens clay soil. Use in fall at the end of the season depending on pH levels in your soil. A soil test is the way to determine pH level in your plot.

Surf and Turf Compost – sold by Jordan’s Farm and made at Benson’s Farm in Gorham. “At Benson Farm, we take in seafood waste from Maine’s working waterfront, animal bedding from local stables and farms like the Maine State Society for the protection of Animals and blend it with our own cow manure.

This mixture is kept between 120° 170° for up to three months. During this “cooking process,” microorganisms actively feed on nitrogen and carbon, breaking the organic matter down to a humus material. When this heating process is finished, the compost is stock-piled to cure for four months or longer.” This product is certified by MOFGA for use on organic gardens.

Serenade provides protection against a broad spectrum of the most common fungal and bacterial garden diseases, yet is completely non-toxic to bees and beneficial insects.

Sluggo – to deal with slugs and snails. Contains iron phosphate, a naturally occurring soil mineral and bait. Slugs and snails are attracted to the bait; when they eat even a small amount, they stop eating and die within a few days. Sprinkle sparingly on moist soil, but pellets are not washed away by rain. Use 1 tsp. per square yard. (Gull Crest plots: use 1 rounded Tbsp. per plot. Maxwell plots: use 2 level Tbsp. per plot.)

OTHER ACCEPTABLE PRODUCTS:

If you are purchasing anything else, always look for “OMRI Listed” to be sure it is an organic product. (OMRI stands for Organic Materials Review Institute) Other organic products may have certification listing of NOP (National Organic Products).

Soil amendments:

- Rock powders (granite dust, greensand, rock phosphate, limestone)
- Manures – must be well-composted before use and labeled specifically for use on vegetable gardens – bagged composted manure is OK if labeled for vegetable use; if using manure from local farm sources, it’s best to spread on soil in the fall to winter over – never use any compost with dog or cat wastes in it

- Wood ashes – use sparingly as ashes raise the pH level

ACCEPTABLE PRODUCTS (continued)

Products to control pests and diseases:

Many sprays, even if organic, may harm certain beneficial insects at certain times – use with care. Identify the pest or disease first and use only the appropriate treatment. Use only when there is a significant problem – otherwise handpick insects and drown in soapy water

- Garlic, hot pepper, and other kitchen mixes to mix and use as a spray
 - Ammonia and water (1:4 ratio) for use on slugs/snails
 - Insecticidal soaps – check labels for organic seal
 - Diatomaceous earth – controls slugs and snails, but dust can be harmful
 - NEEM oil – promotes health and vigor of plants and has some anti-fungal, anti-bacterial and anti-parasitic properties – avoid spraying when bees are pollinating
 - Dipel or MVP or other products with Bt (bacillus thuringiensis) – effective on cabbage worms on all cabbage family plants and tomato hornworms
 - PyGanic – (pyrethrin) botanical insecticide with low toxicity to humans made from chrysanthemums – useful on Colorado potato beetle, cucumber beetle, flea beetle – this is a broad – spectrum insecticide and so kills other insects that are beneficial as well as the pests – use wisely and sparingly
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UNACCEPTABLE PRODUCTS

Chemical fertilizers in bags

Liquid fertilizers such as Miracle-Gro, Miracid, or Peters, etc.

Chemical treatments for pests or diseases

- Sevin
- Rotenone
- Malathion
- Sabadilla
- Methoxychlor
- Diazonin
- Other chemicals
- Slug baits other than Sluggo

Any products that are not listed as certified organic products (OMRI or NOP)

If you have a pest or disease problem, go to the Pest and Disease section of the website. There are links to helpful sites with visual and written descriptions of many different diseases and pests. If you still need help, contact a Garden Committee member.