

Using Organic Products in your Garden

The Eagle Heights Community Garden and a portion of the University Houses Community Garden are organic. Under organic management guidelines, there are many opportunities for you to provide fertilizer and pest management but many chemical methods are not allowed. This sheet lists some common organic products that can be used. This is not a complete list. You must look at labels of products for information on whether or not they are organic. The National Organic Products organization (run by the US FDA) and OMRI are two groups that certify products as organic. Many products will have a symbol from one of the organizations if they are certified.

Organic Fertilizers

- Compost, leaf mulch, straw
- Compost tea
- Fish emulsion
- Worm castings

There are also many organic fertilizers made by various companies available.



Organic Insecticides & Fungicides

- Cloth row cover, plastic mulching, other physical barriers
- Bt and spinosid – bacterial products
- Neem oil
- Copper or Sulfur fungicide



Organic Weed Control

- Leaf mulch, straw
- Hand weeding (hand pulling, hoeing, etc.)
- Lasagna mulching – Layering newspaper or cardboard, compost, leaves, straw, manure, etc.
- Plastic mulch

Synthetic fertilizers, fungicides, insecticides, herbicides and other chemicals are not permitted for use in the gardens.

If you are unsure whether a product is considered organic and permitted in the gardens please ask a garden staff member. The garden chairs, registrar or garden workers are all willing and able to help you figure it out. Our website, www.eagleheightsgardens.com has a complete downloadable manual of organic practices and suggestions under the header "Resources and Tips"