

Labyrinth Community Garden

List of Approved Products

Introduction

LCG is dedicated to sustainable and ethical gardening practices and is an organic garden. Therefore, synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides are not allowed. If you wish to use a product that is not listed as approved, you must contact the Chair of the Site and Safety Committee prior to use. The goal of LCG is to create a safe environment for the garden, gardeners, and the community, not to limit the materials used.

This list is considered the only approved and official list of authorized products for use at LCG. This list is not complete, and will be reviewed and updated as necessary by the Garden Leadership Group.

Why be organic?

Organic fertilizers, pesticides, fungicides and herbicides are generally safer for the environment in their use and require less toxic methods to produce (no petroleum products).

Who decides if something is organic?

The National Organic Program, as administered by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), creates a list of allowed and prohibited substances. Organic certifications are determined from this list.

A second body, called the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI), is a non-profit that helps producers review products intended for organic production and use.

For the purposes of Labyrinth Community Garden (LCG), any product carrying the one or both of the labels shown below are automatically approved for use in the garden. Many products in the gardening world may have the words "Natural" or "Organic" in their name. Without one or both of the above symbols on the package, it is simply a marketing gimmick.

USDA Organic label:



OMRI-approved label:



Is there anything else I can use?

Some products, though not listed as organic or not approved by the OMRI, may still be used. The approval is based on the products having an insignificant amount of non-organic material as a result of processing or formulation.

Please remember though...many of these pest control products are NOT selective. You should use them with great care, making sure that you are applying them only to YOUR plants, and only on plants

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needing pest control. For example, BT does not distinguish between bad caterpillars and caterpillars that become Monarch butterflies.

Also, unless you have the permission of the other gardener, it is NEVER acceptable to apply any product to another gardener's plot.

Products that don't carry the USDA or OMRI labels but that are approved for use at LCG are listed below.

Fertilizers and Soil Amendments:

- Alaska Fish Fertilizer
- Bonemeal
- Bloodmeal
- Compost Tea
- Greensand
- Horticultural Molasses
- Lady Bug brand products
- MaxiCrop Seaweed and Seaweed Plus
- Medina products
- Mycorrhizal products
- Neptune Fish Fertilizer
- Rabbit Hill Farms products
- SuperThrive

Pest and disease control products (listed by active ingredient or brand name)

- Bonide Garden Dust
- BT (bacillus thuringiensis)
- Diatomaceous Earth (DE) (DE should be listed as the ONLY active ingredient)
- Garlic-based sprays
- Insecticidal Soap
- Neem (Neem should be listed as the ONLY active ingredient.)
- Organicide
- Oil-based sprays (Thyme, Wintergreen, Sesame, Clove)
- Pepper (capsaicin) sprays
- Spinosad
- Serenade (bacillus subtilus)

Alert! The following products are prohibited at LCG

- Milorganite
- Dillo Dirt (City of Austin free compost)
- City of Pflugerville free compost
- City of Round Rock free compost

While these products may seem to be organic, they are not. These products use "bio-solids," a politically-correct word for sewage sludge. Yes, this is exactly what it sounds like. Every time a toilet is flushed, it winds up in one of these products. While it is possible to compost human manure safely and use it in a garden, the problem with Dillo Dirt is that every sewer system is connected. That includes hospitals, with lots of drugs and anti-bacterial products in the sewage, and factories that can have many heavy metals in the waste stream. If it was manure only, it would be much safer to use. Milorganite is exactly the same thing, but was created by the city of Milwaukee, Wisconsin to market their waste across the country. If you notice carefully, there is NOT a USDA Organic label on these products.

Where can I find more information on organic products?

You may find more information on organics at:

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/nop> (National Organic Program)
<http://www.omri.org/home> (Organic Materials Review Institute)