

General Rules
Pumpkin Patch Community Garden

1. The garden area is open from dawn until dusk, seven days a week. To prevent erosion, stay in designated gardening areas only.
2. This is an organic garden. Non-organic fertilizers or pesticides are not allowed in the garden.
3. Motorized vehicles (including motorcycles and recreation vehicles) are not allowed in the garden.
4. Remove all refuse and garbage from the area when done.
5. No fires are allowed on site.
6. Do not block roadways.
7. Do not park where vehicle exhaust system can be exposed to grass, wood or other flammable materials.
8. No overnight camping.
9. Children are to be supervised by an adult at all times; animals are not allowed in the garden area. Keep children and animals away from the river at all times.
10. Permittee is responsible for the provision, maintenance and security of their tools. Tools are not to be left on the site for any reason.
11. Toilet facilities are not provided.
12. Water is provided for the garden site only on a set time schedule. Please conserve the use of water. Mulch with leaves, grass clippings, or hay to reduce water evaporation. Do not tamper with or change the water settings without permission.
13. There is no fee required for this permit. However, should Permittee fail to abide by the terms of this permit, the Permittee agrees to pay for any costs incurred by IEP to repair any damages or any cleaning of the site necessary as a result of the Permittee's failure to perform.

Organic Gardening Guidelines For the Pumpkin Patch Community Garden

Fertilizers supplement the nutrients already in the soil. Manufactured fertilizers (nonorganic) are generally concentrated and quick acting, while organic fertilizers release their nutrients more slowly. Organics require warm soil to break down and release their nutrients.

Too much of any fertilizer can cause pollution by leaching into groundwater or running off into surface waters. Organics may be safer in this respect because they tend to release their nutrients more slowly.

Some common organic fertilizers are listed below. Their approximate percentages of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium are listed in parentheses. These percentages can vary somewhat from product to product.

Blood Meal. (12-0-0) This dried blood from cattle slaughter houses is a rich source of nitrogen. Do not apply more than recommended rates because it is concentrated enough to harm plants.

Bone Meal. (6-12-0) This is a slow-acting fertilizer that releases phosphorus gradually. Bone meal is good for bulbs that don't sprout for several months after they are planted and for alkaline-loving plants such as clematis and lilac.

Cottonseed Meal. (7-3-2) In warm soils this fertilizer is readily available with little danger of over fertilizing. Use for acid lovers such as rhododendron, blueberry, and azalea.

Fish Emulsion. (5-1-1) This is a well-rounded fertilizer consisting of partly decomposed ground fish. The smell is strong but will dissipate in a day or two. It confuses pests that can't get past the fish smell. It has a high concentration of nitrogen and can burn plants if overused.

Seaweed Extracts. (9-2-7) Seaweed is an especially good source of trace elements that your plants may need. Its odor is not as strong as that of fish emulsion, but it is more expensive.

Manures. Nutrient concentrations vary widely with the kind of animal they are from. Although concentrations are lower than in manufactured fertilizers, manures improve soil structure and increase its water holding capacity. Fresh manures can cause food-borne illnesses by contaminating vegetables with pathogens. They also can burn tender roots. Therefore, gardeners are encouraged to use composted manures or apply fresh manures at least 60 days before harvesting any garden vegetables that will be eaten raw.

Guidelines for Insecticidal Soap (Organic Pesticide)

All soaps are long chain fatty acids, but not all soaps have insecticidal properties. Insecticidal soaps are specifically formulated to have high insect-killing properties, while being safe for most plant species.

Insecticidal Soap is a Contact Material

Insecticidal soaps kill susceptible insects by washing away the protective coating on the surface of the insect and by disrupting normal membrane functions inside the insect. The insects must come into direct contact with the spray droplets for the material to be effective. Good coverage is essential. The soaps have no residual activity toward insects, but repeated applications may have damaging effects on some types of plants.

Water Quality and Insecticidal Soap Effectiveness

Water hardness reduces the effectiveness of insecticidal soaps. Calcium, magnesium and iron precipitate the fatty acids and render them useless against the insects. It is important to use the purest water possible. Conduct a "jar test" to determine if your water is compatible with the soap. Mix the concentration of soap that you intend to use with water in a glass jar. Mix and allow to stand 15 minutes. If the mix remains uniform and milky, then your water quality is adequate. If a scum develops on the surface of the water, then conditioning of the water will be necessary. The water can be conditioned using a commercially available anionic buffering and conditioning agent. Some readily available products such as "Calgon" may be used. Insecticidal soaps may foam; if your sprayer has an agitator, a defoaming agent may also be added.

Spray Coverage

Good spray coverage is essential for adequate results. Spray equipment must be clean and operating at peak efficiency. The proper configuration of nozzles for good coverage must be utilized in order to wet both sides of the leaves and growing points of the plants. Some of the new spray technologies that create a "fog-like" spray may also improve coverage. Spraying in the evening or early morning hours so that the spray droplets do not dry out quickly may also improve the effectiveness application.

Phytotoxicity

Insecticidal soaps may cause a burn on the foliage of sensitive plants. In general, some cole crops and certain ornamentals are sensitive to burn caused by soaps. Multiple applications in a short time interval can aggravate phytotoxicity. In addition, water conditioning agents can increase phytotoxicity. A small spray strip should be applied and observed before a full-scale application is made if there is a question concerning sensitivity.

Rates

The concentration of the spray is more important than the amount of soap applied. Usually insecticidal soaps are used as a 2% solution. If water is increased or decreased, then the amount of soap must be increased or decreased accordingly.

Pests Controlled

Insecticidal soaps are used against soft bodied insects and mites such as aphids, thrips, white flies, spider mites and immature leafhoppers. Insecticidal soaps have been about 40-50% effective against these pests. Repeated applications may be necessary to adequately control high populations of pests, and close attention should be paid to all details outlined above to achieve maximum control.

Some entomologists have concerns about impact of soaps on soft-bodied immature predators, such as lady beetle and lacewing larvae. No real data has turned up that substantiates these fears. Until such data surfaces, perhaps refraining from using soaps where there are numbers of these beneficial larvae present would be advisable.

Application Safety

Even though soaps have low toxicity to humans, they should always be used with caution. Read and follow all label directions.

Trade names are not intended as an endorsement.