



## Why Organic Weed & Pest Control?

**Herbicides and Pesticides are toxic to living things**—that means you, me, your dog, and your kids—as well as to the beneficial insects that you want to encourage in your garden to keep away harmful pests. Sometimes herbicides and pesticides seep into the ground water causing contamination of which the long term effects are not known. Agriculture is the top non-source polluter nationwide, and household chemical use also has a significant impact. Phasing out the use of chemical herbicides and pesticides can make a significant impact on our pollution problem, and will help to insure that the food you put on your table is safe.

### BEST ORGANIC WEED CONTROL PRACTICES

#### Keeping a clean garden and managing weeds before they start is your **FIRST** line of defense!

Maintenance done regularly with a few, preventative tools can make weeding very manageable - even easy. Weeding an out-of-control garden is a daunting task. Here's how to keep it manageable:

- **Make a commitment to weed** 20 minutes every week, or a few minutes a day. Grab a stirrup hoe or knife/weeder and disturb the little guys before they have the opportunity to grow big and tough. This also gives you an opportunity to spot insect invaders before you and the rest of your garden have a bigger problem.
- **Mulch, mulch, mulch!** Weed thoroughly and place 3 inches or more of mulch over it. This will also help your plants conserve water and provide them nutrients. For pathways and other unplanted spots, place cardboard or black landscaping cloth (or newspapers) under several inches of wood chip mulch.
- **Do not let weeds set seed.** If nothing else, clip those weed flowers and seed heads as you see them. This is the ethical, neighborly thing to do, as others will pay the price along with you, for a lack of good stewardship and garden care.
- **Save your weeds** for the compost pile. Note: if your compost pile is not regularly maintained, i.e. turned and watered, bag & dispose of weeds with seeds and invasive weed roots.
- **YOU can make a difference** by choosing to use environmentally-safe weed prevention products. Always consider non-toxic alternatives in your food gardens.

GREENWICH COMMUNITY GARDENS is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide the opportunity for all members of the community to grow their own organic vegetables, herbs & flowers in ways that promote community building, garden education, exercise, health and wellness. For more information: [info@greenwichcommunitygardens.com](mailto:info@greenwichcommunitygardens.com) or [psechi@gmail.com](mailto:psechi@gmail.com).

### Diatomaceous Earth

An all natural solution for insects of all kinds (ants, snails, slugs, etc.). Sprinkle DIATOMACEOUS EARTH on top of soil around plants with pest problems.

### Companion Planting

for pest control, pollination, and to help increase crop productivity. Read "*Carrots Love Tomatoes*" by Louise Riotte. Here are some ideas:

- *Rosemary or Thyme near Cabbage to repel Cabbage worms*
- *Nasturtiums near Cucumbers, Melons and Squashes to repel Squash bugs*
- *Summer Savory near Beans to repel Bean beetles*
- *Radishes near Cucumbers to repel Cucumber beetles*

### Pest Recipes

#### HORTICULTURAL OIL MIX

- 1 TBS vegetable oil
- 1 tsp liquid dish detergent
- 2 cups water

*Fill a spray bottle with the ingredients then shake to mix.*

#### GARLIC, PEPPERS & ONION INSECTICIDE

- 2 hot peppers
- 1 large onion
- 1 whole bulb of garlic
- 1/4 cup water

*Toss in blender or food processor. Add water, blend until a mash is made. Cover mash with 1 gallon hot (not boiling) water and let stand 24 hours. Strain. Spray on roses, azaleas, vegetables to kill bug infestations. Bury mash in ground where bugs are heaviest. Good for thrips, aphids, grasshoppers, chewing and sucking insects.*