

ORGANIC

**WEED & PEST
MANAGEMENT**

What's Organic?

Growing food or plants without the use of artificial chemicals of any kind, this includes the use of pesticides, herbicides, fungicides or any other product not labeled as “Organic” or “safe for Organic Growing”

Please reach out to GVI (Communitygardens@gogvi.org) with any questions.

What Is A Weed?

“A plant that is not valued where it is growing and is usually of vigorous growth; *especially* : one that tends to overgrow or choke out more desirable plant”

-Merriam Webster Online Dictionary





How Do We Stop Them?

99.9% is MANUAL
Hand Weeding!



The Root Of The Problem

Pulling up weeds?

- **Get their roots up, too**
- Otherwise they make roots twice as strong
- Which will be even harder to get out next time!



Dandelion Weed

When To Weed And How Often?

When:

- When you can distinguish young plants
- When weeds are small
- Choking out a plant

How Often:

- When plants are small: Frequently
- Fully developed plants: Less frequently

Weed Tolerance:

Some of us can feel comfortable with a bit weedier garden (edible weeds)

Some of us will want it weed free





Jimson Weed



Let's Talk About Insects, Pests, and Beneficials!

Pest: Any organism that damages crops, injures or irritates livestock or man, or reduces the fertility of land. -TheFreeDictionary.com

Beneficial: Beneficial insects (sometimes called beneficial bugs) are any of a number of species of insects that perform valued services like pollination and pest control. The concept of *beneficial* is subjective and only comes from the desired outcomes of the human perspective.

Organic Pest Control

“The first and most important alternative to insecticides is information. When you find an insect feeding on your plants, find out what it is, and whether it’s likely to do any important damage to the plant. If not, then there is no need to do anything about it.” -CT Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES)



Aphids and Ladybugs

Ladybugs can be Orange or Red



Aphids appear as small white / gray/ green clumps of bugs and prefer leafy greens!



Stink Bugs, Potato Beetles & You



Stink Bugs

Like Tomatoes, Peppers, Peas



Like Potatos,
Squash,
Eggplant,
Tomatoes

**Potato
Beetles**



Hand control for small infestations, water and organic liquid soap

Cutworms And Grubs



Eat through bottom of plant - cutting off from root -Beets, Broccoli, Kale Cauliflower, ETC.

Making a collar for the plant of aluminum foil or cardboard



Grubs=Root eaters Beetles=Leaf eater

Mix a few drops of organic lemon dish soap and 1 cup water- Spray on dirt

Tomato Hornworm: A Beautiful Pest



Fat and up to 5in long

Not capable of stinging

Tomato, Eggplant, Pepper
and Potato

Marigold flowers or Dill can
be planted to repel

Hand pick and drop in water
with organic liquid soap

Caterpillars & Butterflies



Caterpillars -> Butterflies: Leave them alone if not troublesome because Butterflies = Beneficial

Resources For Further Inquiries

<http://organicgardening.about.com/od/pestcontrol/> (About.com, 26 articles on controlling pests naturally)

<http://www.ct.gov/caes/cwp/view.asp?a=2824&q=378036> (CT Ag. Experiment Station- A really good introductory article to organic pest management and tactics for different plants and pests)

<http://www.motherearthnews.com/organic-gardening/pest-control/organic-pest-control-zm0z11zsto.aspx> (Mother Earth News, Organic Pest Control: What Works And What Doesn't - A great article talking about different methods recommended by gardeners across the country)