### Organic Gardening & Integrated Pest Management

Sarasota's community gardens are proud to be organic. Organic gardening and Integrated Pest Management emphasize preventing problems before they occur, soil building, working with nature, and using the least toxic substance possible if intervention is required. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a key part of organic gardening, and uses a tiered approach consisting of cultural, physical, and biological methods first and chemical as the last resort.

#### What's allowed?

- Companion plants and insect-repelling plants
- Healthy soil
- Begin with healthy starter plants
- Cardboard and heavy mulch
- Tool sanitation
- Companion plants
- Water roots, not leaves
- Right plant, right place
- Crop rotation
- Follow seasonal planting guidelines
- Bioinoculants approved for organic farming

#### What's not allowed?

- Any product not labeled for organic and edible gardening. Synthetic pesticides are prohibited in Sarasota County community gardens, including but not limited to:
  - Bendiocarb
  - Bug B Gon, Weed B Gon, Preen 'n Green
  - Malathion
  - Permethrin
  - Sevin
  - Amdro
  - Rodeo
  - Roundup

### Fertilizers & Soil Amendments

**What's allowed?**

- Natural organic fertilizers
- Compost teas
- Earthworm castings
- Beneficial microbes (e.g., Azotobacter, Bacillus spp.)

**What's not allowed?**

- Formulations containing sewage sludge
- Natural organic fertilizers
- Compost teas
- Earthworm castings
- Beneficial microbes (e.g., Azotobacter, Bacillus spp.)