



DRA Organic Community Garden Gardener Agreement Form 2016

The DRA garden is a place for the community to grow organic and healthy food

Note: Please review it carefully before signing.

Community Garden Guidelines:

- New-to-this-garden gardeners may only have one plot the first year.
- Each gardener is required to volunteer two hours of labor BEFORE commencing planting in the spring. The Garden Coordinator will outline the work that needs to be done to prepare the garden and this work can be done as a group or individually. Once the volunteer service has been completed, and approval from the garden coordinator has been obtained, you may plant in your plot.
- Only pest controls that comply with the National Organic Rule will be permitted. www.ecfr.gov. Soil amendments such as cow and horse manures, eelgrass and straw mulch, and organic composted material are all encouraged. Municipal waste soil amendments may not be used. *
- Deadline for planting is June 15. Plots not started by that date will risk reallocation if there is a waiting list and they shall lose their plot fee.
- If you abandon a plot after July 1 you will be charged an additional \$50 per plot.
- Gardeners are expected to return borrowed tools to the garden shed, clean the tools after use and help to keep the shed tidy.
- Each gardener will be assigned a week during the summer during which it is their responsibility to ensure that the garden shed is tidy, swept out, and tools are clean and in good repair. Any concerns about the condition of tools should be reported to the DRA Garden Coordinator.
- The DRA, being mindful of soil health, has determined that it is best not to till the soil except in extreme situations. That said, some rototilling will be conducted by the DRA on a case by case basis. Plots that have not been cleaned properly and have weeds throughout may be rototilled on a case by case basis with approval.
- As Eliot Coleman reminds us: “One year’s seeding means seven years weeding.” Garden plots must be weeded before weeds go to seed. If after a ‘weed-warning call’ from the Garden Coordinator does not promote weeding within reasonable time the plot may be forfeited. All gardeners are required to weed in walkways adjacent to their plots and along all borders and keep walkways clear for safe and easy passage by fellow gardeners. Gardeners are encouraged to provide for themselves the use of mulch or straw to keep down weeds in their plot.
- Gardeners who plan to have vines, climbers and any other plant material above 3 feet (including sunflowers, for example) are encouraged to grow them at the center of their plot. You will be required to contact all abutters if you want to plant on any of four edge/sides for their approval and if not approved, contact Garden Coordinator for reassigned plot location.
- Gardeners are expected to conduct a Fall Clean-up on their plots by November 15. All garden structures, stakes, wire, twine, etc. must be removed, including all plant material that has gone by. If any perennial plant material requires overwintering, please contact Garden Coordinator for approval. Fall Clean-up will include proper care and maintenance of tools with a thorough clean out of the shed to prepare for following season.
- Recoil hose to designated location after use.
- Return carts, buckets, tools, etc. to shed area lawn after use.
- Keep rocks out of field and in designated rock pile or your own plot.



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- Park only in parking lot, unless offloading material, however always park in lot. This is for the safety of campers, visitors, and for the health of our lawn.
- If you bring your dog to the gardens, you are required to keep your dog on leash, and out of all gardens. The dog may be tied near to where you are working.
- Keep your walkways clear for other gardeners to pass easily and safely.
- You will be included in a Pest Alert email group among the gardeners. You shall manage garden pests as need arises. You are strongly encouraged to reach out to your fellow gardeners should you anticipate time away.
- Weeding and pest management are a major concern among us, and if you anticipate an absence, or you have an unforeseen absence you will need someone to attend to housekeeping in you plot. A list of all gardeners with contact information will be circulated for your reference.
- A gardener who has never gardened in this garden may pay for and use only one plot during the first season (though they may rent abandoned plots after July 1 with the Garden Coordinators permission). Gardeners who have successfully managed plots in the past may purchase the rights to up to three plots on any given year.

The DRA will provide the following to gardeners in the Organic Community Garden:

- A safe and enjoyable garden location with a community of gardeners.
- At least one free class related to gardening every year.
- A number of people who are excellent resources regarding planting, growing, pest management and identification and soil management. These people are available for consultation on an individual basis.
- A variety of well serviced garden tools.
- Limited access to water.
- 1 bale of mulch hay and 1 wheelbarrow of rotten manure or other soil amendment material (minimum, more may be available) for each plot.

** When organic growers and enthusiasts of organic food think of pesticides, many are not picturing the products that are allowed in organic agriculture under the National Organic Program Rule. But truth be told, any substance used to kill or hassle organisms (most commonly weeds, insects, rodents, bacteria and fungi) that attack crops, is considered a pesticide. Therefore, approved-for-organic pest or disease control inputs such as those made from garlic, microorganisms, clay, sulfur, copper, or hydrogen peroxide are all pesticides. Some, if used improperly, can cause harm to people and the environment.*

Please conduct communications with the Garden Coordinator (Sarah Gladu) and other gardeners via email and/or the garden message board inside the shed and with group email when appropriate. For pest related issues and for a most timely response use email for communication with the DRA Garden Coordinator.

Any questions regarding the DRA Organic Community Garden should be directed to **Sarah Gladu**. She can be contacted at: sgladu@damariscottariver.org or a message can be left at the DRA at **563-1393**. *Thank you and happy gardening!*



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TO TILL OR NOT TO TILL? THAT IS THE QUESTION. (No-Till is the DRA Answer)

No-till is an agricultural technique, which increases the amount of water and organic matter (nutrients) in the soil and decreases [erosion](#). It increases the amount and variety of life in and on the soil.

NOTE FOR 2016: In general we are going to strive to be a no-till garden however... Due to the high amount of perennial weeds in the garden right now we will likely be hiring a walk-behind rototiller to go over the majority of the garden prior to planting this spring. All perennial plants (like strawberries) will be protected from this. If you do not want your plot to be rototilled please inform the DRA Garden Coordinator.

Tilling is used to remove weeds, shape the soil into rows for crop plants and furrows for [irrigation](#). This leads to unfavorable effects, like [soil compaction](#); loss of [organic matter](#); degradation of [soil aggregates](#); death or disruption of soil [microbes](#) and other organisms including [mycorrhiza](#), [arthropods](#), and [earthworms](#);[1] and [soil erosion](#) where [topsoil](#) is blown or washed away. No-till farming avoids these effects by excluding the use of [tillage](#). With this way of farming, crop residues or other organic amenities are retained on the soil surface and sowing/fertilizing is done with minimal soil disturbance. Continuous no-till needs to be managed very differently in order to keep or increase yield on the field. Residue, weeds, equipment, crop rotations, water, disease, pests, and fertilizer management are just some of the many details of farming that change when switching to no-till. A problem that occurs in some fields is water saturation in soils. Switching to no-till will help the drainage issue because of the qualities of soil under continuous no-till include a higher water infiltration rate. In no-till farming the soil is left intact and crop residue is left on the field. Therefore, soil layers, and in turn soil biota, are conserved in their natural state. No-tilled fields often have more beneficial [insects](#) and [annelids](#).[20] a higher microbial content, and a greater amount of soil organic material. Since there is no plowing there is less airborne dust. No-till increases the amount and variety of wildlife.[21] This is the result of improved cover, reduced traffic and the reduced chance of destroying ground nesting birds and animals (plowing a field destroys 100% of them).

Organic no-till technique: The cardboard method

Some farmers who prefer to pursue a chemical-free management practice often rely on the use of normal, non- dyed corrugated cardboard for use on seed-beds and vegetable areas. Used correctly, cardboard placed on a specific area can A) keep important fungal hyphae and microorganisms in the soil intact B) prevent recurring weeds from popping up C) increase residual nitrogen and plant nutrients by top-composting plant residues and D) create valuable topsoil that is well suited for next years seeds or transplants. The plant residues (left over plant matter originating from cover crops, grass clippings, original plant life etc.) will rot while underneath the cardboard so long as it remains sufficiently moist. This rotting attracts worms and other beneficial microorganisms to the site of decomposition, and over a series of a few seasons (usually Spring-->Fall or Fall-->Spring) and up to a few years, will create a layer of rich topsoil. Plants can then be direct seeded into the soil come spring, or holes can be cut into the cardboard to allow for transplantation. Using this method in conjunction with other sustainable practices such as composting/vermicompost, cover crops and rotations are often considered beneficial to both land and those who take from it.

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/No-till_farming



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Gardeners, please keep the following as a handy reference...

Excerpted from the National Organic Rule:

www.ecfr.gov

Synthetic substances allowed for use in organic crop production: (A list of synthetic substances allowed, so everything synthetic, man-made, and not on the list is not permitted for use on organic crops). In accordance with restrictions specified in this section, the following synthetic substances may be used in organic crop production:

Provided,

That, use of such substances do not contribute to contamination of crops, soil, or water. Substances allowed by this section, except disinfectants and sanitizers in paragraph (a) and those substances in paragraphs (c), (j), (k), and (l) of this section, may only be used when the provisions set forth in §205.206(a) through (d) prove insufficient to prevent or control the target pest.

- (a) As algicide, disinfectants, and sanitizer, including irrigation system cleaning systems.
- (1) Alcohols. (i) Ethanol.
 - (ii) Isopropanol.
 - (2) Chlorine materials— *Except,* That, residual chlorine levels in the water shall not exceed the maximum residual disinfectant limit under the Safe Drinking Water Act.
 - (i) Calcium hypochlorite.
 - (ii) Chlorine dioxide.
 - (iii) Sodium hypochlorite.
 - (3) Copper sulfate—for use as an algicide in aquatic rice systems, is limited to one application per field during any 24-month period. Application rates are limited to those which do not increase baseline soil test values for copper over a timeframe agreed upon by the producer and accredited certifying agent.
 - (4) Hydrogen peroxide.
 - (5) Ozone gas—for use as an irrigation system cleaner only.
 - (6) Peracetic acid—for use in disinfecting equipment, seed, and asexually propagated planting material. (7) Soap-based algicide/demossers.
 - (b) As herbicides, weed barriers, as applicable.
 - (1) Herbicides, soap-based—for use in farmstead maintenance (roadways, ditches, right of ways, building perimeters) and ornamental crops.
 - (2) Mulches.
 - (i) Newspaper or other recycled paper, without glossy or colored inks.
 - (ii) Plastic mulch and covers (petroleum-based other than polyvinyl chloride (PVC)).
 - (c) As compost feedstocks—Newspapers or other recycled paper, without glossy or colored inks.
 - (d) As animal repellents—Soaps, ammonium—for use as a large animal repellent only, no contact with soil or edible portion of crop. (e) As insecticides (including acaricides or mite control).
 - (1) Ammonium carbonate—for use as bait in insect traps only, no direct contact with crop or soil.
 - (2) Boric acid—structural pest control, no direct contact with organic food or crops.
 - (3) Copper sulfate—for use as tadpole shrimp control in aquatic rice production, is limited to one application per field during any 24-month period. Application rates are limited to levels which do



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not increase baseline soil test values for copper over a timeframe agreed upon by the producer and accredited certifying agent.

- (4) Elemental sulfur.
- (5) Lime sulfur—including calcium polysulfide.
- (6) Oils, horticultural—narrow range oils as dormant, suffocating, and summer oils.
- (7) Soaps, insecticidal.
- (8) Sticky traps/barriers.
- (9) Sucrose octanoate esters (CAS #s—42922–74–7; 58064–47–4)—in accordance with approved labeling. (f) As insect management. Pheromones.
- (g) As rodenticides.
 - (1) Sulfur dioxide—underground rodent control only (smoke bombs).
 - (2) Vitamin D3.
- (h) As slug or snail bait. Ferric phosphate (CAS # 10045–86–0).
- (i) As plant disease control.
 - (1) Coppers, fixed—copper hydroxide, copper oxide, copper oxychloride, includes products exempted from EPA tolerance, *Provided*, That, copper-based materials must be used in a manner that minimizes accumulation in the soil and shall not be used as herbicides.
 - (2) Copper sulfate—Substance must be used in a manner that minimizes accumulation of copper in the soil. (3) Hydrated lime.
 - (4) Hydrogen peroxide. (5) Lime sulfur.
 - (6) Oils, horticultural, narrow range oils as dormant, suffocating, and summer oils.
 - (7) Peracetic acid—for use to control fire blight bacteria.
 - (8) Potassium bicarbonate.
 - (9) Elemental sulfur.
 - (10) Streptomycin, for fire blight control in apples and pears only.
 - (11) Tetracycline (oxytetracycline calcium complex), for fire blight control only.
- (j) As plant or soil amendments.
 - (1) Aquatic plant extracts (other than hydrolyzed)—Extraction process is limited to the use of potassium hydroxide or sodium hydroxide; solvent amount used is limited to that amount necessary for extraction.
 - (2) Elemental sulfur.
 - (3) Humic acids—naturally occurring deposits, water and alkali extracts only.
 - (4) Lignin sulfonate—chelating agent, dust suppressant, floatation agent.
 - (5) Magnesium sulfate—allowed with a documented soil deficiency.
 - (6) Micronutrients—not to be used as a defoliant, herbicide, or desiccant. Those made from nitrates or chlorides are not allowed. Soil deficiency must be documented by testing.
 - (i) Soluble boron products.
 - (ii) Sulfates, carbonates, oxides, or silicates of zinc, copper, iron, manganese, molybdenum, selenium, and cobalt.
 - (7) Liquid fish products—can be pH adjusted with sulfuric, citric or phosphoric acid. The amount of acid used shall not exceed the minimum needed to lower the pH to 3.5.
 - (8) Vitamins, B1, C, and E.
- (k) As plant growth regulators. Ethylene gas—for regulation of pineapple flowering.
- (l) As floating agents in postharvest handling.



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- (1) Lignin sulfonate.
 - (2) Sodium silicate—for tree fruit and fiber processing.
 - (m) As synthetic inert ingredients as classified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), for use with nonsynthetic substances or synthetic substances listed in this section and used as an active pesticide ingredient in accordance with any limitations on the use of such substances.
 - (1) EPA List 4—Inerts of Minimal Concern.
 - (2) EPA List 3—Inerts of Unknown Toxicity allowed:
 - (i) Glycerine Oleate (Glycerol monooleate) (CAS #s 37220–82–9)—for use only until December 31, 2006.
 - (ii) Inerts used in passive pheromone dispensers.
 - (n) Seed preparations. Hydrogen chloride (CAS # 7647–01–0)—for delinting cotton seed for planting.
 - (o)–(z) [Reserved]
- [65 FR 80637, Dec. 21, 2000, as amended at 68 FR 61992, Oct. 31, 2003; 71 FR 53302 Sept. 11, 2006; 72 FR 69572, Dec. 10, 2007]

§ 205.602 Nonsynthetic substances prohibited for use in organic crop production.

The following nonsynthetic substances may not be used in organic crop production: (A list of nonsynthetic substances or those made from natural materials that may not be used, so everything not on the list may be used on organic crops.)

- (a) Ash from manure burning.
- (b) Arsenic.
- (c) Calcium chloride, brine process is natural and prohibited for use except as a foliar spray to treat a physiological disorder associated with calcium uptake.
- (d) Lead salts.
- (e) Potassium chloride—unless derived from a mined source and applied in a manner that minimizes chloride accumulation in the soil.
- (f) Sodium fluoaluminate (mined).
- (g) Sodium nitrate—unless use is restricted to no more than 20% of the crop's total nitrogen requirement; use in spirulina production is unrestricted until October 21, 2005.
- (h) Strychnine.
- (i) Tobacco dust (nicotine sulfate).
- (j)–(z) [Reserved]



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By signing this, I agree to abide by the above DRA Garden guidelines.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____


Email: _____ Phone(s): _____

\$25.00/plot. Please write ***Community Garden*** on the memo line of your check and return it with **this page** to DRA at the address below. Scholarships are available.

Plot number(s) requested: _____

Please send via snail mail or leave payment at the front desk. Thank you! Scholarships are available please call Sarah Gladu at 563-1393 for more information. Cash, check or credit card are accepted. Please call or visit for credit card transaction.

We will contact you to confirm which plot(s) have been allocated for your use. Remember that you need to do at least 2 hours of garden service before planting in the spring.

 Damariscotta River Association
P.O. Box 333
Damariscotta, ME 04543-0333
207-563-1393

DRA OFFICE USE ONLY

GARDEN \$ _____

PLOT (S) _____