

# Organic Gardening

**Below are recommendations from Sustainable Renton on best practices in this space.**

## Organic Practices

- **Active Care:** Tend your plot (including permaculture plots) at least every three weeks between May 1 and August 31.
- **Soil Health:** Care for your soil throughout the season and winterize your plot to restore its vitality.
- **Edible Focus:** To support local food systems, Sustainable Renton recommends that 50% of plots be dedicated to growing edible plants.  
**Natural Fertilizers:** Use only organic amendments such as compost, fish meal, or composted manure. OMRI-certified products are encouraged.
- **Mulching:** Choose organic mulch materials—arborist wood chips, cardboard, compost, leaves, or other natural matter.
- **Safe Practices:** Do not use human biosolids, synthetic chemicals (pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers), or broad-spectrum slug baits such as Corey Slug & Snail Bait or Sluggo Plus.  
**Weed Barriers:** Avoid commercial weed blocker fabric and prolonged use of plastic sheeting.
- **Waste & Compost:** Place compostable plant material in compost bins. Take non-compostable items home for disposal.
- **Sharing the Harvest:** Donate extra produce to family, friends, or local food banks.

## Invasive Plants & Noxious Weeds

- **Common Invasives:** Watch for mint, buttercup, grass, morning glory, English ivy, holly, and similar plants.
- **Prevention:** Do not allow invasive plants to go to seed. Remove roots and plants from plots, paths, fences, and sheds.
- **Disposal:** Invasive plants should be completely dried and dead before composting. Do not place viable weeds, diseased plants (especially tomatoes/nightshades), or plastics in compost bins.
- **Overgrowth:** If a plot becomes overgrown with weeds or grass, the gardener will be notified by email and will work with the garden manager on timeline for cleanup.
- **Support:** If you are struggling with weeds, please ask the Garden Manager for guidance and support.