

# **Fenway Garden Society**

## **Trash and Compost Rules**

The FGS Guidelines and Regulations (G&R) provide the foundation for the Trash and Compost Rules. These Rules reflect the G&R in **bold font** and provide additional details and advice.

**There are five main waste streams that must be kept separate:**

- **Soft plant materials (those without woody parts, such as flowers, grass, leaves, and vegetables) are to be placed in the designated rows in the compost areas.**
  - Excess Soil: Place in the compost or raised beds in the sharing garden in V row
  - Small, non-invasive plant material: Place in the compost.
  - A note about the compost piles: Each compost pile is organized with windrows and pathways alternating in straight parallel lines. Windrows are where the compostable material goes. Pathways need to be kept empty. It is important that new compostable material be placed in the windrows (and NOT in the pathways) and that the windrows be filled from the back, which makes it easier for the next person to deposit their stuff.
- **Woody plant materials (tree and shrub trunks, limbs, and branches) are to be placed in designated wood piles in the compost areas.**
  - Long, thin, non-invasive plant material should be cut into small pieces (6" length) and placed in the compost.
  - Large limbs, trunks and other woody materials which are difficult to be cut into small pieces, meaning their diameter is larger than your thumb, should be placed in the designated area. Prior to placing in the designated area, please ensure the smaller, thin branches that can be put in the compost have been removed.
  - As of the 2022 Season, the designated area is located along the MRRP fence line at the large (Boylston) compost pile.
- **Invasive plant species must have the soil removed prior to being placed in plastic bags and placed in the dumpster or trash barrel. These must not be put in the compost.**
  - Invasive plant material is the *only* organic material that is allowed in the City of Boston trash barrels.
  - When removing invasive plants, it is essential to remove the root, as well as the above the ground plant. Carefully, shake the dirt off the root (making sure any part of the root or bulb stays with the invasive plant and not in your garden). Place the plant in a plastic bag in your garden for a few days so it will wilt and condense in volume making it easier to dispose of.
  - As a reminder, do not overload the trash barrel. If the trash barrel is full, please dispose of it at home, or keep it in your garden until there is space in the trash barrel.
  - Invasive plant species must be removed in compliance with the state prohibitions on invasive species and disposed of properly. FGS prohibits the planting of invasive plant species and requires the prompt removal of known invasive plants. Our **Invasive Plants Resource** provides photos to help identify various invasive species and advice on removal.

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## **Trash and Compost Rules (continued)**

- **Recyclable materials should be brought home for disposal in City recycling bins.**
  - Unfortunately, we do not have the ability to recycle plastic at this time.
- **Trash ('none of the above') should be disposed of in the dumpster or trash barrels (large or bulky items and discarded building materials should be placed in the dumpster periodically provided by FGS or BPRD).**
  - **Small Trash** (e.g. coffee cups, empty plastic bags, etc.): Can be placed in the City of Boston Trash barrels located inside the garden near the main entrance and at the west end of the gardens near Park Drive and at the east end of the gardens near Boylston Street.
  - **Large Trash** (e.g. rotted wood, broken plastic chairs, etc.): Must be disposed of in the dumpster. If there is no dumpster, please store it in your garden until we have a dumpster or, if possible, take it home to dispose of.

***The trash barrels provided by the Parks and Recreation Department can only be used for the disposal of routine trash. They absolutely cannot be used for the disposal of soil, rocks, building materials, or hazardous waste.***

*Excess plants, seeds, or garden materials like bricks and stones:*

***Members are encouraged to share reusable items with fellow gardeners. Plants and seeds may be placed in the sharing garden in V row. Reusable non-plant materials may be placed in the wheelbarrow yard in V row.***

*Metal, including old fencing, metal chairs, etc.:*

***If FGS has the ability to recycle metal, there will be a designated, labeled location for it to be placed.***

*As of the 2022 Season, the metal recycling location is at the Northwest edge of the compost on Row Q.*

***If you have large amounts of wire fencing, fence posts, bricks, recyclables, or other materials to dispose of, please contact your Area Director for guidance.***

### **Additional important disposal considerations:**

- **Hypodermic Needles:** Call 311, report using the 311 mobile application, or find a gardener who has a needle disposal kit. It is illegal to dispose of needles in the trash or dumpster.
- **Chemicals:** Non-organic garden chemicals cannot be placed in the trash or dumpster. Gardeners are responsible to dispose of them as Hazardous Household Waste. Information regarding how to do that can be found here:  
<https://www.boston.gov/departments/public-works/get-rid-household-hazardous-waste>