

Olivette *Life*

...in the center of it all

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Gardening the Organic Way

Olivette in Bloom (OIB) hosted three garden-focused classes in March. “Garden the Organic Way” was taught by Master Gardener Cheryl Rafert. What’s an organic fertilizer? Look at the product label. Does it mention animal or plant-based ingredients like manure or seaweed? If so, then it is probably organic. If the label contains words that only chemists would understand, then it is probably an inorganic or synthetic fertilizer. How do you decide which is best for your garden? Organic fertilizers are slow feeding, rarely burn plants and will not kill beneficial bacteria in your soil. Inorganic fertilizers are quick feeding, often are less expensive but can burn and damage plants as well as beneficial soil organisms.



Get a soil test before you add fertilizer and/or lime to your lawn and follow the recommendation. Over fertilizing can lead to excess plant growth, which can be more susceptible to diseases. Trying to grow grass in soil outside a grass’s recommended pH range will result in poor growth. Fertilizer runoff can pollute streams and groundwater. Apply them properly and help keep Olivette’s environment healthy.

A special thank you to OIB’s outgoing president, Susan Grossman, and a warm welcome to our new president, Jasmine Fazzari.

Olivette in Bloom is a non-profit community volunteer organization with a mission to promote the natural beauty and harmony in Olivette by designing, planting, and maintaining garden sites. OIB needs YOU in our gardens. Check our web site www.olivetteinbloom.org for workday dates and other volunteer opportunities.