

Dear Gardeners:

Like so many residents, I am proud of the wonderful preservation and conservation efforts being undertaken by the Township and Community. The Barclay Farmstead is one example of the Township and the Community working together as stewards of our open spaces and shared heritage.

As we head into the Plant-A-Patch season, please be reminded that the Township's community gardening program at the Barclay Farmstead, which blooms with your beautiful crops each spring and summer, falls under our "**Pesticide-Free Zones**" (look for the signs around your patches). As such, *please refrain from using any chemical pesticides or fertilizers when you garden your plot this year.*

The "Pesticide-Free Zones" are in furtherance of Cherry Hill Township's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) policy for all Township grounds. The IPM outlines ways to mitigate pest problems through the use of **low-impact**, alternative methods to chemical treatments. Actions may include inspecting crops and monitoring them for damage, using mechanical trapping devices, **the use of weed whackers and hand-pulling to address weeds**, and/or natural biopesticides – the important thing is that toxins and chemicals are only used as a method of last resort when practicing IPM.

For more information about the Township's IPM program, and how it affects Plant-A-Patch, please do not hesitate to contact Megan Brown at (856) 488-7868 or [mbrown@chnj.gov](mailto:mbrown@chnj.gov)