

What is the Organic Land Care Program ?

The Organic Land Care Program, of the non-profit Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA), was formed by the Connecticut and Massachusetts chapters to extend the vision and principles of organic agriculture to the care of the landscapes where most people live, work, play and otherwise spend their daily lives.

The NOFA Organic Land Care (OLC) Program offers:

- Five-day Accreditation Courses in Organic Land Care in several Northeastern states
- One-Day Organic Lawn and Turf Courses
- The NOFA Organic Land Care Professional Accreditation Program for professionals anywhere in the U.S.

The NOFA OLC Program publishes:

- NOFA Standards for Organic Land Care: *Practices for Design and Maintenance of Ecological Landscapes*
- NOFA Organic Lawn & Turf Handbook: *Beautiful Grass Naturally*

For more information, visit our website

www.organiclandcare.net

or call 203-888-5146

Finding a Landscaper Who Understands Organic Land Care

To make sure that you know what kind of organic land care you are really getting, ask for a NOFA Accredited Organic Land Care Professional.



Accredited Professionals

- Have taken a rigorous 5-day course in organic techniques
- Passed the NOFA Accreditation Exam
- Pledged to provide organic land care according to the *NOFA Standards for Organic Land Care*
- Are required to attend a minimum of 4 hours of organic landscape education annually in order to maintain accreditation

A NOFA Accredited Organic Land Care Professional has the knowledge to work with nature to plant and maintain a beautiful and healthy landscape.

Organic Land Care

A Healthy Choice for Families, Pets and the Environment



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Organic Land Care...

Focuses on building healthy soil that teems with living things.

Costs less money in the long run because healthy soils reduce the need for watering and produce healthier plants.

Does not use synthetic pesticides.


Uses natural fertilizers that are less likely to pollute water because they release nutrients slowly.

Increases landscape diversity.

Improves the health of the land and the people who live on it.




The Trouble with Synthetic Pesticides

 Pesticides don't stay where you put them.

Rainwater washes pesticides into groundwater, streams, lakes, wetlands and oceans.


Pesticides absorbed by plants, insects and microbes move up the food chain to accumulate in birds, fish, other wildlife and people.

Herbicides applied to lawns are tracked into the house where they remain for months in carpets, toys and house dust. Everyone in the house (especially children and pets) continues to be exposed.

 Pesticides harm children and future generations.

Studies have shown that fetuses and young children are particularly sensitive to the effects of pesticides.

Exposure of parents (including fathers) to pesticides is associated with birth defects, cancer and infertility in the next generation.

 Scientists are still discovering new hazards of pesticides.

In recent years, many pesticides have been found to act like hormones in the bodies of people and animals. We are now realizing that pesticides may be hazardous at concentrations that were previously thought to be safe.

The Organic Difference

Organic land care follows a holistic approach that focuses on

- Developing a healthy soil.
- Choosing plants that will thrive under the conditions in your yard.
- Taking care of the plants so they will be as healthy as possible.

If necessary, some natural materials may be used as pesticides, such as soap, oils and extracts from plants and microbes. Only organic materials that have low toxicity and break down very quickly are allowed for use in organic land care.