



## Organic Land Care



Congratulations to the 2017 Rutgers Cooperative Extension Organic Land Care Program Graduates!

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**Organic Land Care** is a holistic approach to landscaping that improves the natural resources of a site by fostering cycling of resources, promoting ecological balance, and conserving biodiversity.

The question of what "organic" actually means can lead to a lot of confusion. Organic land care is not simply about the type of fertilizer or pesticide used on a home landscape. Rather, organic land care is a holistic approach to landscaping that restores and enhances biological cycles involving soil microorganisms, plants, and animals.

**The term "organic" as it applies to landscaping means landscaping without the use of synthetic pesticides, synthetic fertilizers, or synthetic soil amendments.**

The federal government through the [National Organic Program](#) (NOP) developed national organic standards for *agriculture* and a certification program identified by the "USDA Organic" symbol, which certifies that agricultural products meet federal organic standards.

However, there are **no** federal standards for organic land care. In order to educate and assist land care practitioners in determining what is acceptable under an organic program, Rutgers Cooperative Extension has developed an [Organic Land Care Certificate Program](#). The program focuses on providing education on organic practices for promoting healthy soil, enhancing biodiversity, and reducing polluted runoff from managed landscapes.

### Rutgers Cooperative Extension Organic Land Care Working Group Members

- Michele Bakacs, Environmental Agent, Rutgers Cooperative Extension

### Links

[OLC Home](#)

[Certificate Program](#)

[Find a Landscaper](#)

[For Homeowners](#)

- [The Life of the Soil](#)
- [Fertilizers and Soil Amendments](#)
- [Compost and Compost Tea](#)
- [Lawn and Lawn Alternatives](#)
- [Protecting Water Resources](#)
- [Pest and Disease Management](#)
- [Weed Management and Native Plants](#)

[Resources and Literature](#)

[Contact Us](#)

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- Keith Haitz, President, HyrdoGreen
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- William T. Hlubik, Agricultural Agent, Rutgers Cooperative Extension
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- James Murphy, Extension Specialist in Turf Grass Management, Rutgers University
- Christopher Paul, Genesis Landscaping
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