



## **GO ORGANIC!** **Rutgers University – ORGANIC LAND CARE**

### **Organic Land Care**

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.

### **Transitioning to Organic Land Care**

Making the transition to organic land care may seem intimidating or overwhelming to the average homeowner who maintains their own lawn and landscape. Many misconceptions exist about organic lawn and land care. Perhaps you have questions whether "that stuff really works" or perhaps you fear your yard turning into a hotbed of weeds and pests.

When transitioning to an organic home landscape, the goal should be to create a healthy lawn and garden that are self-sustaining with few material or product inputs.

- [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](#)

### **What is Natural Organic Fertilizer?**

Natural organic fertilizers are made from composted manure, mineral or plant products. If it doesn't sound like an animal, vegetable or mineral, it is probably not organic. Read the label!

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