

What Is Organic, Ecological and Sustainable Land Care?

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OWNER

RICHARD A. MCCOY HORTICULTURAL SERVICES INC.



Let's Talk About...

What is Organic Land Care?

Land care vs. Landscape

Soil

Organic lawns

Battery-powered equipment

Education and leadership

What to look for when hiring an Organic Landscaper

What is Organic Land Care?

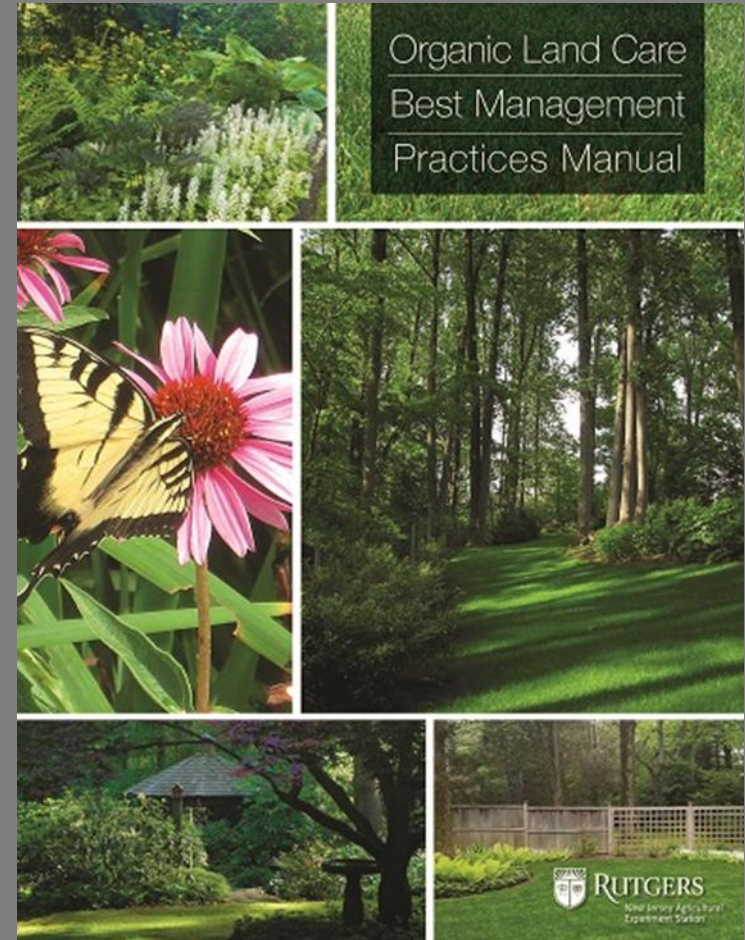
Ten Core Concepts of OLC

From the Rutgers Organic Land Care Best Management Practices Manual

1. "Do no harm" by protecting the natural elements of a site
2. Treating the landscape as a whole living system
3. Reducing energy, water, and material inputs
4. Practicing the law of return, such as returning grass clippings back to the lawn
5. Promoting soil health which translates to healthy plants

<https://njaes.rutgers.edu/organiclandcare>

Adapted from The Soil Profile Newsletter and the NOFA Organic Land Care Standards



What is Organic Land Care?

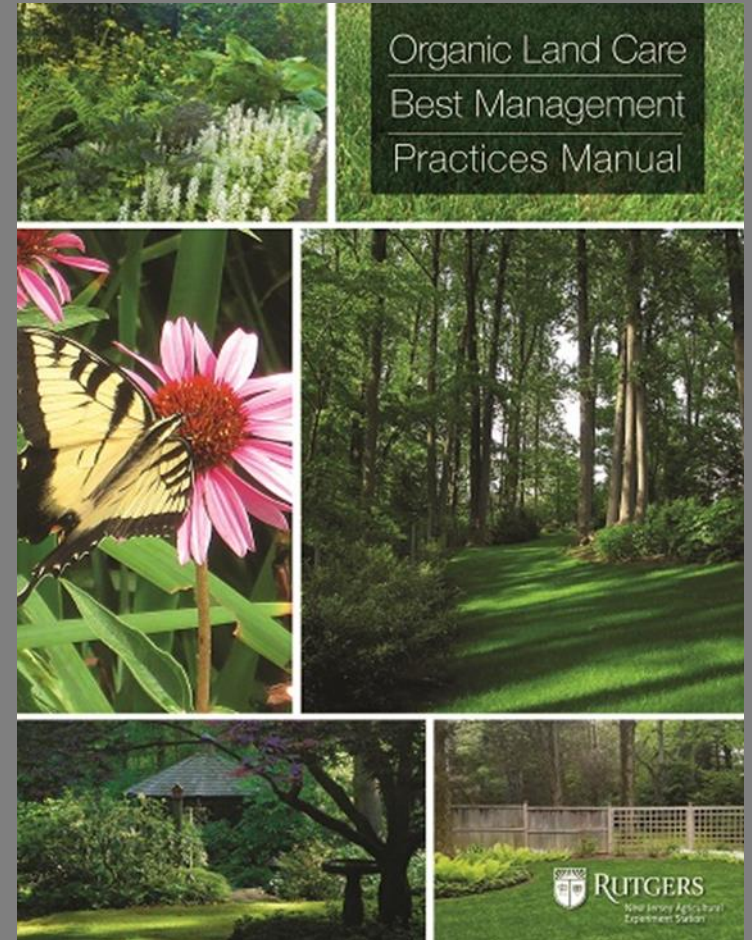
Ten Core Concepts of OLC

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6. Fertilizing with naturally-occurring materials to supply essential nutrients as indicated by a soil test
7. Favoring cultural practices over chemical applications for managing pests and diseases
8. Avoiding the use of prohibited materials
9. Encouraging biodiversity and avoiding monocultures
10. Running an organic business with honesty and integrity

<https://njaes.rutgers.edu/organiclandcare>

Adapted from The Soil Profile Newsletter and the NOFA Organic Land Care Standards



Land care vs. Landscape

- Stewardship or caring for the land
- Paradigm shift
 - Remove or change the cause of the problem
- It is not a product swap
- Supports and utilizes natural plant systems
 - Natural and organic inputs stimulate soil biology
 - Native plants attract diverse insect populations
- Team Member/ Applicator and Client health

- Doesn't mean that you don't care
 - It means you don't recognize
- "Issues can NOT be solved with bag, box or bottle" (*Chip Osbourne*)
- It is not a product swap
- Bypasses natural systems
 - Nutrients are made available artificially by synthetic materials
- Greater risk of exposure for all parties



THIS is Organic Land Care

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This is **NOT** Organic Land Care

- ❖ 1960's landscape model
- ❖ Non-native and invasive plants
- ❖ Synthetic herbicides
- ❖ Zero or in most cases no benefit the ecology and provide no ecosystem service
- ❖ Leads to excess irrigation
- ❖ "Plastic landscapes"



This is **NOT** Organic Land Care

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A two-story blue house with white trim and a lush garden. The house has a gabled roof, a front porch with white columns, and a two-car garage. The garden features a large green lawn, a curved flower bed with pink flowers and tall grasses, and a dense background of trees.

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This is NOT Organic Land Care?

- ❖ Proper planting and maintenance
- ❖ Right plant – Right place



DIRT?

SOIL!



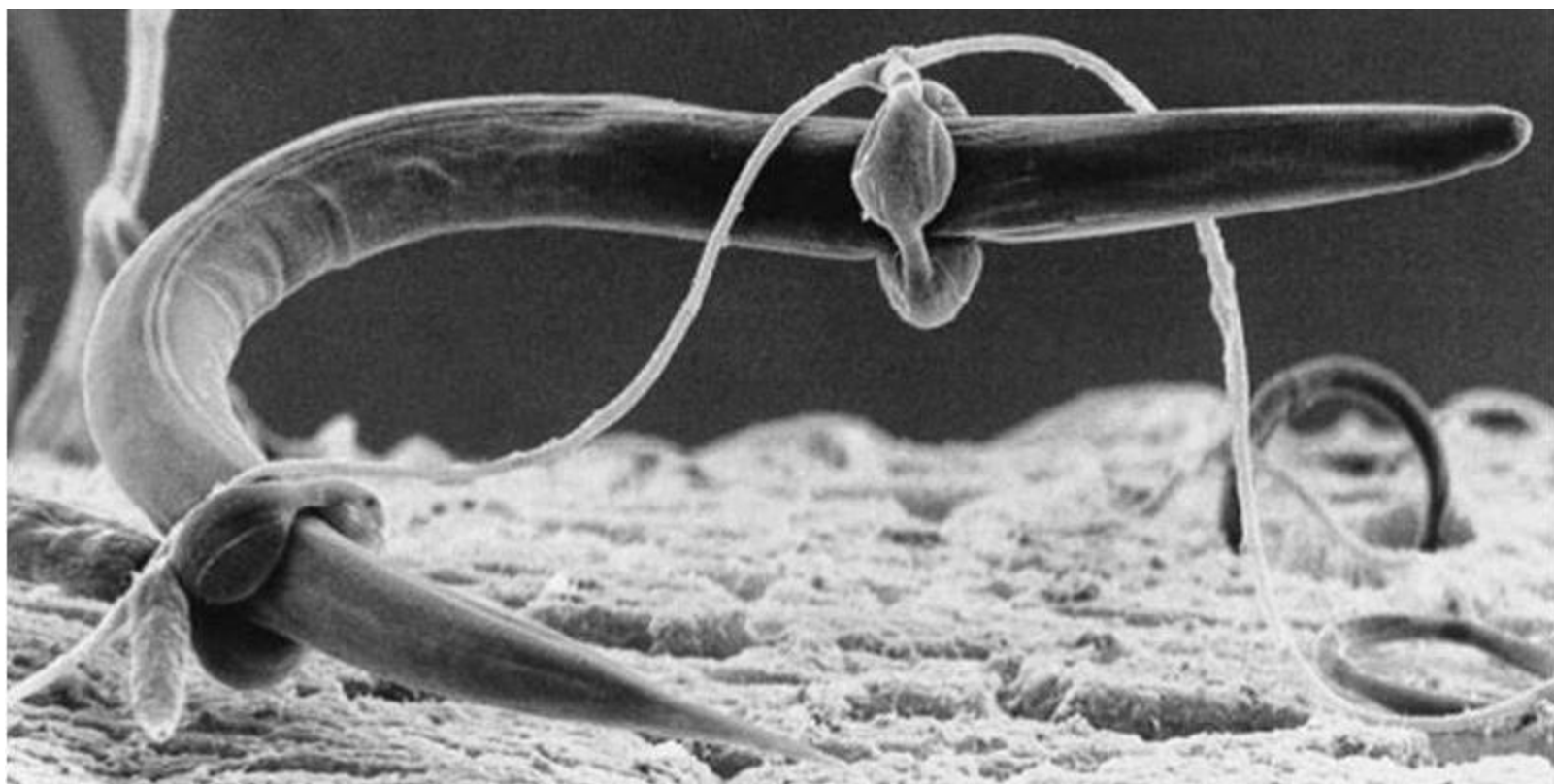
What is Organic Land Care?

❖ Soil

- ❖ Biological life dictates the of “health” of the soil
- ❖ Soil health dictates the health of plants

Elaine R. Ingham, Oregon State University ... A **teaspoon** of productive **soil** generally contains between 100 million and 1 billion bacteria.





What is Organic Land Care?

❖ Organic lawns

- Traditional programs
- Bridge programs
- Regenerative system
- Organic system

What is Organic Land Care?

❖ Organic lawns

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What is Organic Land Care?

❖ Organic lawns

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What is Organic Land Care?

- ❖ Green infrastructure
- ❖ Native plants





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What is Organic Land Care?

- ❖ Proper planting
- ❖ Right plant – Right place



Battery-Powered Equipment



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Education and Leadership

NOFA Standards for Organic Land Care
Practices for the Design and Maintenance of Ecological Landscapes

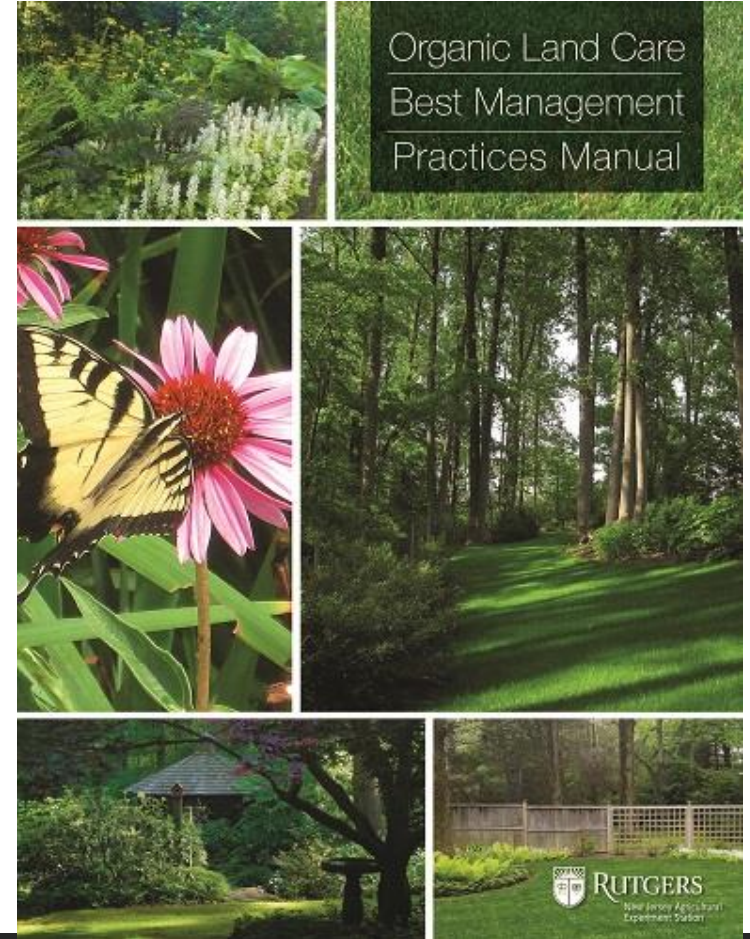


The Mission of the NOFA Organic Land Care Program is to extend the vision and principles of organic agriculture to the care of the landscapes that surround us in our daily lives.

6th Edition



Organic Land Care
Best Management
Practices Manual





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WHAT TO LOOK FOR WHEN
HIRING AN ORGANIC
LANDSCAPER

ORGANIC & ECOLOGICAL LAND CARE by RMCCOYHORT - FEBRUARY 6,
2020

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Follow

What to look for when hiring an Organic Landscaper

- Essential to understand that organic land care methods will not suit everyone's taste or philosophy
- As the consumer, need to be honest with yourself and genuinely invested in working towards a more ecologically responsible landscape.
- The company or practitioner you seek will also need to be 100% invested.
- Alignment between the consumer and the organic practitioner is vital

What to look for when hiring an Organic Landscaper

SOIL IS KEY!

- What if the conversation does not revolve around soil, soil health, and soil biology
- What if a contractor can't explain the importance of the role that soil plays in organic land care and how to address its needs,



FOR A NEW PROVIDER!

What to look for when hiring an Organic Landscaper

- 1) SOIL IS KEY!**
- 2) USE YOUR POWER AS A CUSTOMER.**
- 3) ASK TO SEE THE MATERIALS THEY'LL BE USING ON YOUR PROPERTY.**
- 4) LARGER COMPANIES HAVE A HARDER TIME TRANSITIONING.**
- 5) THE ORGANIC APPROACH IS ALL-ENCOMPASSING.**
- 6) BE OPEN TO PAYING MORE.**
- 7) BEWARE OF GREEN WASHING**

Thank you!

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Linked 

Ecology Matters Blog

*A Land Stewardship Resource from the Ecological/Organic Land Care Specialists
at Richard A. McCoy Horticultural Services, Inc.*

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