Guide to ATTRA’s Organic Publications

Since 1987, the National Center for Appropriate Technology’s ATTRA – National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service has provided the organic farming community with timely and helpful information on production and marketing. Now that organic agriculture has entered a new era of expanding growth, sophistication and federal regulation, the need for information has moved to a new level. To meet that demand, NCAT has sharpened its focus on certified organic agriculture.

We are forming new partnerships with other organizations, creating new materials and updating old ones, tackling new issues and bringing fresh perspectives to familiar questions. In order to assist you in using our service, we’ve created this guide to our organic publications. In it, you will learn what these publications contain and how to use them.

Organic rule and compliance

Organic Certification Process—IP262

This publication is designed to help organic producers and handlers understand, prepare for and get the most from the process of organic certification to U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Organic Standards, including the purposes and benefits of the inspection and a description of the process and the role of the organic inspector.

To view and download the publications in this guide (except those labeled print only), visit the Organic farming section of the ATTRA Web site at www.attra.ncat.org/organic.html. For a free print copy of any of these publications or to speak with a specialist, call 1-800-346-9140 (English), 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Central Time or 1-800-411-3222 (Español), 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Pacific Time, Monday through Friday.
Organic Standards for All Organic Operations: Highlights of the USDA’s National Organic Program Regulation–IP325

This publication describes the key requirements of the National Organic Program (NOP) for all organic operations. It should be used in conjunction with specific standards for crop production, livestock production and handling (processing).

Organic Standards for Crop Production: Highlights of the USDA’s National Organic Program Regulations–IP332

This publication describes the key requirements of the National Organic Program (NOP) for organic crop production including land management, seed and planting stock, crop rotation and pest management. It also provides lists of allowed and prohibited substances.

Organic Standards for Handling (Processing): Highlights of the USDA’s National Organic Program Regulations–IP333

This publication describes the key requirements of the National Organic Program (NOP) for handling and processing organic materials including facility pest management, contamination prevention, product composition and labeling. It also provides a list of accepted and prohibited materials.

Preparing for an Organic Inspection: Steps and Checklists–IP261 (companion to IP262)

A companion to Organic Certification Process, this publication is designed to help organic producers and handlers understand, prepare for and get the most from their annual inspections.

Organic Farm Certification and the National Organic Program–IP222

This publication discusses considerations in going organic, basic steps to certification and the sole exemption to mandatory certification.

National Organic Program Compliance Checklist for Producers–IP232

This publication will help you learn how to assess the compliance of your farm or ranch operation with National Organic Program (NOP) standards.

National Organic Program Compliance Checklist for Handlers–IP301

This publication guides you through assessing the compliance of your handling or processing operation with the National Organic Program (NOP) standards.

Organic System Plan (OSP) Templates for Certifiers–IP213

This publication addresses the essential elements of a completed Organic System Plan (OSP) and provides certifiers with models that they are encouraged to apply when creating their own applications or OSP documents.

Organic Field Crops Documentation Forms–IP230

These forms provide farmers with a clean and organized way to document information that may be important for compliance with the National Organic Program (NOP) standards.

Recordkeeping and Budgeting Workbook for Organic Crop Producers (draft version)

This publication contains a set of forms for farmers to use to keep records required for organic certification.

Organic Materials Compliance–IP313

This publication discusses three main ways to ensure compliance with the National Organic Program (NOP) regulations of agricultural materials and substances. The goals are 1) an understanding of the

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regulations, 2) the creation of an Organic System Plan (OSP) with your certifier, and 3) thorough recordkeeping of all purchases and use of materials.

The Organic Chronicles No. 1: Mysteries of Organic Farming Revealed–IP314

This illustrated story briefly explains the ecological ideas behind organic agriculture, including information about switching to organic methods.

Organic Crop Production Overview–IP170

This is an overview of key concepts and practices of certified organic crop production, with perspectives on many notions, myths and issues that have become associated with organic agriculture.

Forms, Documents and Sample Letters for Organic Producers–IP276

This publication includes supplementary letters, forms and other documents producers can use to demonstrate compliance.

Organic Orchard, Vineyard, and Berry Crop Documentation Forms–IP238

Orchardists and viticulturists can use the forms in this publication for documenting practices, inputs and activities that demonstrate compliance with regulations or that assist in farm recordkeeping.

Organic Market Farm Documentation Forms–IP285

The 23 forms in this package are provided as tools that market gardeners and produce farmers can use for documenting practices, inputs and activities that demonstrate compliance with regulations or that assist in other aspects of farm recordkeeping.

Organic Field Crops Documentation Forms–IP230

This publication contains tools farmers can use for documenting practices, inputs and activities to demonstrate compliance with regulations. The forms can also assist in farm recordkeeping.

Organic Livestock Documentation Forms–IP237

This publication contains tools that livestock producers can use for documenting practices, inputs and activities that demonstrate compliance with regulations. The forms can also assist in farm recordkeeping.

Organic Standards and Certification Presentation–(online only)

This is a PowerPoint presentation overview of the National Organic Program standards and steps to become certified. It was designed as a training tool for cooperative extension agents, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and other technical service providers. www.attra.ncat.org/downloads/organic_cert/organic_standards_certification.pdf
Organic Integrity in the Field: Preventing Contamination and Seeking Compensation—(online only)

This PowerPoint presentation, with speaker notes and a ready-to-print workshop handout, outlines strategies for preventing crop contamination with synthetic pesticides, fertilizers and other prohibited materials and the steps to be taken if contamination occurs. www.attra.ncat.org/risk_management/srmgateway.html

Southern Organic Resource Guide—IP279 (online only)

This publication was designed to help certified and transitioning organic farmers in Arkansas, Louisiana, Kentucky, Mississippi and Tennessee minimize and manage risks associated with obtaining and maintaining organic certification. www.attra.ncat.org/sorg/downloads/sorg.pdf

Transitioning to Organic Production—IP241
(Sustainable Agriculture Network publication, print only)

This publication includes conversion strategies, covering typical organic farming production practices, innovative marketing ideas and federal standards for certified production.

Farm inputs

Suppliers of Seed for Certified Organic Production—RL040 (online only)

This publication will help you locate sources of seed certified organic or otherwise acceptable in accordance with the 2002 National Organic Program (NOP) regulations. It includes suppliers of open-pollinated, heirloom vegetable seed and seed for agronomic crops, with a focus on regionally suitable varieties. www.attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/organic_seed/

Seed Production and Variety Development for Organic Systems—IP272

Research to develop seed varieties for organic production and technical information is increasing. The USDA is training farmers on participatory breeding practices to increase the availability of organic seed. This publication provides information on these issues.

Sources of Organic Fertilizers and Amendments—RL044 (online only)

Resource list for farmers and gardeners to identify specialty input suppliers in the U.S. and bordering countries. Categorized by product type. www.attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/org_fert

Organic Livestock Feed Suppliers—IP171 (online only)

This is a searchable online database of suppliers offering certified organic livestock feed. It is categorized by region and by type of livestock feed. www.attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/livestock_feed/index.php

Organic Alternatives to Treated Lumber—CT170

Organic producers need to remember that treated lumber is not allowed under the Final Rule of the National Organic Program. This publication includes information on alternative products.

Farmscaping to Enhance Biological Control—CT065

This publication provides information about increasing and managing biodiversity on a farm to favor beneficial organisms, with emphasis on beneficial insects. Topics covered include plants that attract beneficials; pests and predators; seed blends to attract beneficial insects; farmscaping; hedgerow establishment; maintenance budgets; and a flowering period table.
Biointensive Integrated Pest Management (IPM)—IP049

This publication provides the rationale for biointensive integrated pest management (IPM) and outlines the concepts and tools of biointensive IPM. It suggests steps for implementing IPM and provides information resources.

Organic Integrated Pest Management Pictorial Field Guide (English)

Guía de Campo Sobre el Manejo Integrado de Plagas Organico (Español)—SP257

These pictorial guides examine concepts of organic IPM and the role of beneficials, focusing on ecologically based strategies to prevent pests. The guides are available on CD or online and include these sections:

1) Beneficials, beneficial habitat and insect pests
2) Plant disease management
3) Weed management
4) Vertebrate pest management

Sources of “Spraying Prohibited” Signs for Organic Farms—RL035

Manufactured signs are cost-effective and available from several suppliers whose products and prices are listed.

Protecting Water Quality on Organic Farms—IP214

This publication discusses strategies for preventing water pollution on organic farms in relation to concerns such as transition to organic and nutrient management.

Southern Organic Resource Guide—IP279 (see Organic Certification for Southern Farmers) (online only)


Determining and Documenting the Acceptability of Organic Farm Inputs (see Organic Certification for Southern Farmers) (online only)

This PowerPoint presentation with speaker notes and a ready-to-print workshop handout will help producers determine which fertilizers, amendments, pesticides, seeds and planting stock are allowed in crop production. It includes organics basics and how to reduce dependence on off-farm inputs. Go to www.attra.ncat.org/risk_management/srmgateway.html and look under Training Materials.

Comparing Energy Use in Conventional and Organic Cropping Systems—IP339

Energy consumption in conventional and organic production systems can vary greatly depending on direct energy inputs as well as the indirect energy involved in manufacturing, shipping and applying pesticides and nitrogen-based fertilizers. This publication examines several studies that reviewed energy use in various cropping systems.

Marketing and business

Enterprise Budgets and Production Costs for Organic Production—RL041

This resource list contains Internet-based sources of enterprise budgets and production cost information for organic production of horticultural and agronomic crops and for organic livestock enterprises.

Organic Marketing Resources—IP124

This publication provides market resources for organic food and fiber products, including organic prices, sales data, market trends and data, organic trade associations, directories and other

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organic marketing publications and resources, with contact information.

Marketing Organic Grains—CT154
This publication discusses food grains, oilseeds and pulses, with an overview of feed grain markets and marketing. It also presents several key ways in which organic grain marketing differs from conventional grain marketing.

Southern Organic Resource Guide (online only)
This user-friendly reference handbook is designed to help certified and transitioning organic farmers in Arkansas, Louisiana, Kentucky, Mississippi and Tennessee minimize and manage risks associated with obtaining and maintaining organic certification. www.attra.ncat.org/sorg/downloads/sorg.pdf

Federal Resources for Sustainable Farming and Ranching—IP294
This overview of the major federal conservation programs provides resources for farmers and ranchers to enhance and maintain sustainable farming and ranching practices.

Horticultural crops

Fruits
These publications provide detailed information on the sustainable and organic production methods of a variety of fruits as well as strategies for pest management.

Organic and Low-Spray Apple Production—IP020

Considerations in Organic Apple Production—IP184

Organic and Low-Spray Peach Production—IP047

Organic Pear Production—IP167

Low Spray and Organic Plum Production—CT122

Grapes: Organic Production—IP031

Blueberries: Organic Production—IP021

Organic Culture of Bramble Fruits—IP022

Strawberries: Organic Production—IP046

Tree Fruits: Organic Production Overview—IP028

Vegetables, herbs and flowers
These publications provide detailed information on the sustainable and organic production of a variety of vegetables, herbs and flowers.

Organic Allium Production—IP138

Organic Asparagus Production—CT100

Organic Garlic Production—IP320

Grapes: Organic Production

Introduction
Grapes are grown in many parts of the U.S., in a wide range of climatic and soil environments. Certain construction and practices in grape production will be needed for both greenhouse and outdoor vineyard cultivation. Various cultural practices and pest management strategies are used for both commercial and organic grape vineyards across the U.S. by growers who use conventional methods and minimal inputs on their farms. In this overview, we provide an overview of Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices for a variety of grape-growing regions. BMPs are practices that are widely used in the grape industry, and are known to be effective in reducing the risk of disease and pest outbreaks. IPM is a holistic approach to pest management that combines biological, cultural, physical, and chemical methods to achieve sustainable control of pests. The goal of IPM is to reduce or eliminate the need for pesticides, while maintaining the health of the vineyard ecosystem. This overview provides an introduction to the guidelines and practices for organic grape production, and includes information on specific BMPs and IPM strategies for various grape-growing regions.
Greenhouse production
These publications provide information on various aspects of sustainable and organic greenhouse production of various horticultural crops as well as information about the greenhouse industry.

Organic Greenhouse Vegetable Production–IP078
Potting Mixes for Certified Organic Production–IP112
Plug and Transplant Production for Organic Systems–IP160

Herbs: Organic Greenhouse Production–IP164
Organic Greenhouse Tomato Production–IP190

Other organic horticultural crops topics
Organic Crop Production Overview–IP170
This publication provides an overview of key concepts and practices of certified organic crop production, with perspectives on many notions, myths and issues that have become associated with organic agriculture over time.

NCAT’s Organic Crops Workbook–IP225
This workbook is for organic and transitional producers with cropping or mixed crop and livestock operations. It was created to assist in understanding the range of practices and materials allowed under the NOP Regulations.

Field crops
These publications provide information about sustainable and organic production of various field crops including information relating to soil and weed management, planting and tilling methods and alternate crops.

Organic Alfalfa Production–IP234
Organic Cotton Production–IP233
Organic Field Corn Production–CT113
Hops: Organic Production–CT115
Organic Rice Production–CT143
Organic Small Grain Production–CT160

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To view and download the publications in this guide (except those labeled print only), visit the Organic farming section of the ATTRA Web site at www.attra.ncat.org/organic.html. For a free print copy of any of these publications or to speak with a specialist, call 1-800-346-9140 (English), 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Central Time or 1-800-411-3222 (Español), 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Pacific Time, Monday-Friday.

Organic Soybean Production—CT120
Organic Tobacco Production—IP322
Peanuts: Organic Production—IP329

Other organic field crops topics

Organic Crop Production Overview—IP170
This publication provides an overview of key concepts and practices of certified organic crop production, with perspectives on many notions, myths and issues that have become associated with organic agriculture over time.

NCAT’s Organic Crops Workbook—IP225
This workbook is for organic and transitional producers with cropping or mixed crop and livestock operations. It was created to assist in understanding the range of practices and materials allowed under the NOP Regulations.

Marketing Organic Grains—CT154
This publication discusses food grains, oilseeds and pulses, with an overview of feed grain markets and marketing. It also presents several key ways in which organic grain marketing differs from conventional grain marketing.

Pursuing Conservation Tillage Systems in Organic Crop Production—IP183
This brief look at conservation tillage for organic cropping systems focuses on annual cropping systems for agronomic and vegetable systems.

Flame Weeding for Agronomic Crops—CT157
This publication provides information about the techniques and economics of flame weeding, which has resurfaced as an alternative to chemical control.

Flame Weeding for Vegetable Crops—IP165
This publication discusses different strategies for preemergent flame weeding and postemergence flame weeding, as well as infrared weed control and steam and hot water weed control.

Livestock

Organic Standards for Livestock Production: Highlights of the USDA’s National Organic Program Regulations—IP334
This collection of excerpts from the USDA’s National Organic Program provides the reader with general requirements for organic livestock management, including information about origin of livestock, feed, health care and living conditions, as well as lists of substances both allowed and prohibited in production.

Parasite Management for Natural and Organic Poultry: Coccidiosis—IP245
This publication discusses the life cycle of coccidiosis, as well as transmission in free-range production, management in the brooder and on pasture, natural treatments, drugs and vaccines.

Considerations in Organic Hog Production—IP185
This publication provides information about hog production compliance with the National Organic Program, as well as insight into sustainability and animal welfare.

NCAT’s Organic Livestock Workbook—IP228
This publication is for organic and transitional producers with livestock or mixed crop and livestock operations. It is meant especially for producers contemplating conversion to, and those in the early years of transition to, organic production.
Predator Control for Sustainable and Organic Livestock Production–IP196

This publication examines how to identify livestock predators and how to control them. It focuses primarily on the control of coyotes and dogs through management practices, such as fencing and secure areas, and the use of guard animals, such as dogs, donkeys and llamas.

Organic Livestock Feed Suppliers–IP171 (online only)

This is a searchable online database of suppliers offering certified organic livestock feed. It is categorized by region and by type of livestock feed. www.attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/livestock_feed/listings.php

Organic Alternatives to Treated Lumber–CT170

This publication reminds producers that treated lumber is not allowed under the Final Rule of the National Organic Program. It includes information on alternative products.

Arsenic in Poultry Litter: Organic Regulations–IP266

This publication discusses the potential for arsenic in poultry litter, which is often used by organic producers as a fertilizer and source of organic matter for soil.

Organic Poultry Production in the United States–IP331

This publication provides information about the National Organic Program standards for organic poultry production, including living conditions, genetics, feed and processing.

Dairy Resource List: Organic and Pasture-Based–IP307

This annotated resource list offers many sources of information helpful to organic and pasture-based dairy farmers. Topics include general organic dairying, pasture productivity, animal management, milk marketing and farm energy.

Pastures: Going Organic–IP297

This is an introduction to regulations related to organic pasture and rangeland in the United States, including allowed activities and materials, fertility, weed and insect pest management issues, as well as organic integrity and recordkeeping.

Building a Montana Livestock Industry–IP346

This report begins with the cost of production survey and includes a report on how Montana Organic Producers Cooperative members can better access regional and national markets. In a broader sense, this report provides an understanding of the value chain of the organic grass-finished beef market from the producer to consumer.

Soils and compost

Soil Management: National Organic Program Regulations–IP270
This publication provides management guidelines for meeting the objectives of the National Organic Program and explains why these objectives are essential for maintaining sustainable, organic production systems.

Assessing the Pasture Soil Resource–IP128

This technical note provides methods to determine biological activity of pasture soils and practical tips on improving the usefulness of typical soil and plant samples.

Sustainable Soil Management–IP027

This publication covers basic soil properties and management steps toward building and maintaining healthy soils.

Pursuing Conservation Tillage Systems for Organic Crop Production–IP183

This brief look at conservation tillage for organic cropping systems focuses on annual cropping systems for field crops and vegetables.

Sources of Organic Fertilizers and Amendments–RL044 (online only)

This database allows users to search for suppliers of organic fertilizer by state, product category or keyword.

Manures for Organic Crop Production–IP127

This publication addresses the challenges of raw and composted manures including produce quality concerns, pollution and fertility imbalances in relation to the National Organic Program.

Arsenic in Poultry Litter: Organic Regulations–IP266

This publication discusses the potential for arsenic in poultry litter, which is often used by organic producers as a fertilizer and source of organic matter for soil.

Potting Mixes for Certified Organic Production–IP112

This publication will aid producers in finding sources of acceptable potting media or making their own that comply with National Organic Program standards.

Pest management

These resources provide an array of sustainable techniques for the reduction or elimination of insects, weeds and diseases without jeopardizing soil health or water quality.

Disease pest management

Asian Soybean Rust: Notes and Organic Control Options for Farmers–IP282 (online only)

www.attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/asian_soy_rust.html

Organic Control of White Mold on Soybeans–IP133

Downy Mildew Control in Cucurbits–CT111

Notes on Compost Teas–IP118

Use of Baking Soda as a Fungicide–IP130

Organic Alternatives for Late Blight Control in Potatoes–IP131

Insect pest management

Bug Vacuums for Organic Crop Protection–IP194

Colorado Potato Beetle: Organic Control Options–CT107

Cucumber Beetles: Organic and Biorational Integrated Pest Management–IP212
**Greenhouse IPM: Sustainable Aphid Control—IP149**

**Greenhouse IPM: Sustainable Thrips Control—IP148**

**Greenhouse IPM: Sustainable Whitefly Control—IP168**

**Kaolin Clay for Management of Glassy-winged Sharpshooters in Grapes—IP175**

**Insect IPM in Apples—Kaolin Clay—IP176**

**Flea Beetle: Organic Control Options—CT114**

**Squash Bug and Squash Vine Borer: Organic Controls—IP298**

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**Other organic pest management topics**

**Deer Control Options—CT131**

This publication details several deer control strategies including fencing techniques, scare devices, repellants and culling.

**Farmscaping to Enhance Biological Control—CT065**

This publication contains information about increasing and managing biodiversity on a farm to favor beneficial organisms, with emphasis on beneficial insects.

**Biointensive Integrated Pest Management (IPM)—IP049**

Targeted to individuals interested in agriculture at all levels, this publication provides the rationale for biointensive IPM, outlining concepts and tools, with suggested steps and informational resources for implementing IPM.

**Integrated Pest Management for Greenhouse Crops—IP144**

This publication provides information about IPM for both vegetable and ornamental greenhouse crops, including monitoring, sanitation, biological controls, biorational controls, insect growth regulators and disease control strategies.

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**Organic Integrated Pest Management Pictorial Field Guide— in English and Spanish (Guía de Campo Sobre el Manejo Integrado de Plagas Organico)—SP257 (online and on CD only)**

This pictorial guide examines concepts of organic IPM and the role of beneficials, focusing on ecologically based strategies to prevent pests.
Sources of “Spraying Prohibited” Signs for Organic Farms—RL035

Manufactured signs are cost-effective and available from several suppliers whose products and prices are listed.

Publicaciones en Español/ Spanish publications

Escarabajos del Pepino: Manejo Integrado de Plagas—MIP Orgánico y Bioracional—SP212

(Cucumber Beetles: Organic and Biorational Integrated Pest Management)

La Certificación Para Granjas Orgánicas y el Programa Orgánico Nacional—SP264

(organic Certification and the National organic Program)

Fresas Orgánicas y Opciones Para El Manejo Integrado De Plagas—SP246

(Strawberries: Organic and IPM Options)

Las Crónicas Orgánicas No. 1: No Tenga Pánico Vuelvase Orgánico—SP310

(The Organic Chronicles No. 1)

Producción Orgánica de Lechugas de Especialidad y Verduras Para Ensalada—SP260

(Specialty Lettuce and Greens: Organic Production)

Guía de Campo Sobre el Manejo Integrado de Plagas Orgánico SP257 (online and CD only)

(organic Integrated Pest Management Pictorial Field Guide)