



Guide to ATTRA's Organic Publications

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Since its beginning in 1987, NCAT's ATTRA Project 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.

– George Kuepper, NCAT Agriculture Specialist

Contents

Organic Rule and Compliance	1
Farm Inputs	2
Marketing and Business	4
Horticultural Crops	4
Field Crops	5
Livestock	6
Soils and Compost.....	6
Pest Management.....	7
Publicaciones en Español/Spanish Publications.....	8

Organic Rule and Compliance

Organic Certification Process–IP262

Designed to help organic producers and handlers understand, prepare for, and get the most from the process of organic certification to USDA National Organic Standards, including purposes and benefits of the inspection, a description of the process, and the role of the organic inspector.

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

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

Farmers planning to market their products as “organic” must become certified. Discusses considerations in “going organic,” basic steps to certification, and the sole exemption to mandatory certification.

National Organic Program Compliance Checklist for Producers–IP232

Assess the compliance of your farm or ranch operation with National Organic Program (NOP) Standards. Divided into eight sections; 2 through 7 correspond to information required in the Organic Production and Handling System Plan.

Organic Crop Production Overview–IP170

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.



Photo courtesy
USDA NRCS



www.clipart.com



www.sxc.hu

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Forms, Documents, and Sample Letters for Organic Producers—IP276

Supplementary letters, forms, and other documents producers can use to demonstrate compliance. Companion to ATTRA's organic documentation forms publications (below).

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

Tools that orchardists and viticulturists can use for documenting practices, inputs, and activities that demonstrate compliance with regulations or that assist in farm record keeping.

Organic Field Crops Documentation Forms—IP230

Tools farmers can use for documenting practices, inputs, and activities to demonstrate compliance with regulations, or that assist in farm record keeping.

Organic Livestock Documentation Forms—IP237

Tools that livestock producers can use for documenting practices, inputs, and activities that demonstrate compliance with regulations, or that assist in farm record keeping.

Organic Standards and Certification (see [Organic Certification for Southern Farmers](#))—(**Web only**)

PowerPoint overview of the National Organic Program standards and steps for becoming certified. Designed as a training tool for Extension, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and other technical service providers.

Organic Integrity in the Field: Preventing Contamination and Seeking Compensation (see [Organic Certification for Southern Farmers](#))—(**Web only**)

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.

Southern Organic Resource Guide—IP279 (see [Organic Certification for Southern Farmers](#))—(**Web only**)

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.

Transitioning to Organic Production (Sustainable Ag Network—SAN)—IP241 (**print only**)

Includes conversion strategies, covering typical organic farming production practices, innovative marketing ideas and federal standards for certified production. Special sections on livestock production and profiles of four organic producers.

Farm Inputs

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

Sources of seed certified organic or otherwise acceptable in accordance with the 2002 NOP regulations. Includes suppliers of open-pollinated, heirloom vegetable seed, and seed for agronomic crops, with a focus regionally suitable varieties.

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. As of 2005, no seed varieties bred for organic production are commercially available.

Sources of Organic Fertilizers and Amendments—RL044 (**Web only**)

Resource list for farmers and gardeners to identify specialty input suppliers in the US and bordering countries. Categorized by product type and based on current knowledge of the materials available and the product offerings of each company listed.

To view and download the publications and materials in this Guide (except those labeled “**print only**”), visit the [Organic Farming](#) section of the [ATTRA Web site](#), where you will also find a link to [Organic Certification for Southern Farmers](#).

<http://attra.ncat.org/organic.html>

Organic Livestock Feed Suppliers—IP171 (Web only)

Searchable, online database of suppliers offering certified organic livestock feed. Categorized by region and by type of livestock feed, listing distributors for some organic feeds.

Organic Alternatives to Treated Lumber—CT170

Reminder to producers that treated lumber is not allowed under the Final Rule of the National Organic Program (NOP). Includes information on alternative products.

Farmscaping to Enhance Biological Control—CT065

Information about increasing and managing biodiversity on a farm to favor beneficial organisms, with emphasis on beneficial insects. Examples of 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

Provides the rationale for biointensive IPM, outlining concepts and tools, with suggested steps and informational resources for implementing IPM.

Organic Integrated Pest Management Pictorial Field Guide – in English and Spanish (*Guía de Campo Sobre el Manejo Integrado de Plagas Organico – en Español e Ingles*)—SP257

Pictorial Guide examines concepts of organic IPM and the role of beneficials, focusing on ecologically based strategies to prevent pests. Includes these sections (**available on CD or on the Web**), titled Organic Integrated Pest Management Pictorial Field Guide:

- 1) to Beneficials, Beneficial Habitat and Insect Pests,
- 2) to Plant Disease Management,
- 3) to Weed Management,
- 4) to Vertebrate Pest Management.

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

Organic producers are required to prevent contamination of their crops by spray drift originating from adjoining lands, roadsides, and rights-of-way. Manufactured signs are cost-effective and available from several suppliers. Their products and prices are listed.



Photo by Ann Baier.

Protecting Water Quality on Organic Farms—IP214

Organic farms tend to have less nitrogen leaching, better nutrient holding ability, and less runoff and erosion. Environmental concerns related to organic farming occur during the transition period from conventional to organic, in nutrient management planning practices and from improper storage of manure or compost materials. Discusses strategies for preventing water pollution.

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

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.

For a free copy of any of these publications, or to speak with a specialist, call:
800-346-9140
800-411-3222 (en Español)
7 a.m. to 7 p.m.,
Monday through Friday
(Central Time).

Or visit our Web site at:
<http://www.attra.ncat.org>

Determining and Documenting the Acceptability of Organic Farm Inputs (see [Organic Certification for Southern Farmers](#))—**(Web only)**

PowerPoint presentation with speaker notes and a ready-to-print workshop handout. For determining which fertilizers, amendments, pesticides, seeds, and planting stock are allowed in crop production; includes organics basics and how to reduce dependence on off-farm inputs.

Marketing and Business

Enterprise Budgets and Production Costs for Organic Production—RL041

Internet-based sources of enterprise budgets and production cost information for organic production of horticultural and agronomic crops, and for organic livestock enterprises.



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Organic Marketing Resources—IP124

Market resources for organic food and fiber products, including organic prices, sales data, market trends and data, organic trade associations, directories, and other organic marketing publications and resources, with contact information.

Marketing Organic Grains—CT154

Organic grain and oilseed markets are growing, and organic grains can be successfully marketed at premium prices. Discusses food grains, oilseeds, and pulses, with an overview of feed grain markets and marketing. Presents several key ways in which organic grain marketing differs from conventional grain marketing.

Southern Organic Resource Guide—IP279 (see [Organic Certification for Southern Farmers](#))—**(Web only)**

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.

Horticultural Crops

—Fruits

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 and IPM Options—IP046

Tree Fruits: Organic Production Overview—IP028

Overview of issues relevant to commercial organic production of temperate zone tree fruits and, to a lesser extent, tree nuts, including: marketing; economics; cultural considerations; crop varieties; site selection and preparation; soil fertility; weed control and pest management; and orchard and enterprise design. Lists of electronic and print resources offer further, more detailed information.

—Vegetables, Herbs and Flowers

Organic Allium Production—IP138

Organic Asparagus Production—CT100

Organic Garlic Production—CT146

Herb Production in Organic Systems—IP224

Hops: Organic Production—CT115

Organic Pumpkin and Winter Squash Production—CT172

Organic Sweet Corn Production—CT076

Sweetpotato: Organic Production—CT128

Organic Tomato Production—CT073

Specialty Lettuce and Greens: Organic Production—CT117

Cole Crops and Other Brassicas: Organic Production—IP275

These cool season crops include broccoli, cauliflower, radish, and the mustards and collards. They are an excellent choice for many organic farmers because of the variety of crops, their nutritional qualities, health benefits, compatibility in planting rotations, and natural pest-suppressive qualities. Soil requirements, planting, irrigation, pest management, and harvesting and marketing are discussed.

Resource Guide to Organic and Sustainable Vegetable Production—IP188

A summary of the best in-print and online resources on use of legumes as a source of nitrogen, cover crops, compost, non-chemical weed control, biointensive IPM, and other practices.

Pursuing Conservation Tillage Systems in Organic Crop Production—IP183

A brief look at conservation tillage for organic cropping systems. Promising strategies and technologies are described, and abstracts of recent research are provided. Focused on annual cropping systems for agronomic and vegetable systems.

Plug and Transplant Production for Organic Systems—IP160

Flame Weeding for Vegetable Crops—CT165 (also request *Flame Weeding for Agronomic Crops*—CT157)

—Greenhouse Production

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

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

For organic and transitional producers with cropping or mixed crop and livestock operations. Created to assist in understanding the range of practices and materials allowed under the NOP Regulations.

Organic Alternatives to Treated Lumber—CT170

Reminder to producers that treated lumber is not allowed under the Final Rule of the National Organic Program (NOP). Includes information on alternative products.

Field 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

Organic Soybean Production—CT120

Organic Tobacco Production—CT129



Photo courtesy USDA ARS.

—Other Organic Field Crops Topics

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Flame Weeding for Agronomic Crops–CT157 (also request *Flame Weeding for Vegetable Crops*–IP165)



Photo courtesy USDA NRCS.

Livestock

Parasite Management for Natural and Organic Poultry: Coccidiosis–IP245

The parasitic disease coccidiosis is of special interest to poultry producers. Information on its life cycle, transmission in free-range production, management in the brooder and on pasture, natural treatments, drugs, and vaccines is discussed. On a small scale, coccidiosis can be handled without medication by careful management. On a larger scale, however, vaccines become an important consideration and alternative to drugs, particularly in organic production. A thorough discussion of the disease, its characteristics and routes of transmission is presented, as well as a review of vaccines and medications.

Considerations in Organic Hog Production–IP185

Hog production methods in relation to National Organic Program compliance.

NCAT's Organic Livestock Workbook–IP228

For organic and transitional producers with livestock or mixed crop and livestock operations. Like the workbook above, with emphasis on farming strategies and practices that promote sustainability. Especially for growers contemplating conversion to, and those in the early years of transition to, organic production.

Predator Control for Sustainable and Organic Livestock Production–IP196

Organic Livestock Feed Suppliers–IP171 (Web only)

Searchable, online database of suppliers offering certified organic livestock feed. Categorized by region and by type of livestock feed, listing distributors for some organic feeds.

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Reminder to producers that treated lumber is not allowed under the Final Rule of the National Organic Program

(NOP). Includes information on alternative products.

Arsenic in Poultry Litter: Organic Regulations–IP266

Most arsenic used as an antibiotic in commercial broiler production ends up in the poultry litter that is often used by organic producers as a fertilizer and source of organic matter for soil. The potential for arsenic in poultry litter is examined, especially as to build up in soil or contamination of water.

Soils and Compost

Soil Management: National Organic Program Regulations–IP270

The soil section of the NOP Rule does not define specific land practices that producers must use. It does identify general soil management and environmental protection objectives. Management guidelines for meeting, and measurable parameters for monitoring these objectives are discussed, and why these objectives are essential for maintaining sustainable, organic production systems.

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Sources of Organic Fertilizers and Amendments–RL044

Manures for Organic Crop Production–IP127

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Potting Mixes for Certified Organic Production–IP112

Pest Management

—Disease Pest Management

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

Organic Control of White Mold on Soybeans–IP133

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 IPM–IP212

Flea Beetle: Organic Control Options–CT114

Squash Bug: Organic Control Options–CT126

Organic Control of Squash Vine Borer–CT127

—Weed Pest Management

Flame Weeding for Vegetable Crops–CT165

Flame Weeding for Agronomic Crops–CT157

—Other Organic Pest Management Topics

Farmscaping to Enhance Biological Control–CT065

Information about increasing and managing biodiversity on a farm to favor



Asian soybean rust.
Photo courtesy USDA ARS.

beneficial organisms, with emphasis on beneficial insects. Includes examples of plants that attract beneficials, pests and predators, seed blends to attract beneficial insects, farmscaping, hedgerow establishment, maintenance budgets, and a flowering period table.

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Publicaciones en Español/ Spanish Publications

Escarabajos del Pepino: Manejo Integrado de Plagas–MIP Organico y Bioracional –SP212

(Organic and biorational control measures of Cucumber Beetles)

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)

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 Organico CD-ROM – en Español e Ingles—SP257

(Organic Integrated Pest Management Pictorial Field Guide – in English and Spanish) *Incluye estas secciones (**disponibles solamente en CD o por el Web**), tituladas Guía de Campo Ilustrada Sobre el Manejo Integrado Orgánico:*

- 1) *de Insectos Plaga e Insectos Benéficos,*
- 2) *de Enfermedades de Plantas,*
- 3) *de Malezas,*
- 4) *de Plagas de Vertebrados.*

El Proceso de la Certificación Orgánica–SP261

(The Organic Certification Process)

Cómo Prepararse para la Inspección Orgánica–SP262

(Preparing for an Organic Inspection))

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