



## Organic Land Care Certification Program

### Who is affected by this initiative?

Rutgers Cooperative Extension in association with the NJDEP Pesticide Control Program certifies professional landscapers and others in organic land care. The program is designed for professional landscapers, property managers, public works employees, groundskeepers, landscape architects and Master Gardeners. This program is not intended for recreation and sports turf field managers.

### Why should I take this course?

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 in association with the NJDEP Pesticide Control Program has developed an [Organic Land Care Certification Program](#). The program focuses on providing education on organic practices for promoting healthy soil, enhancing biodiversity, and reducing polluted runoff from managed landscapes.

### How Do I Attain Organic Land Care Certification?

To attain certification you must attend a 5-day training program and pass a certification exam. Training programs are offered on an annual basis usually in January. The registration fee for the program is \$475.00

Program certification is valid for a period of 3 years. Certification is maintained by obtaining 4 approved continuing education units (CEUs) every 3 years. Credit opportunities will be available through pre-approved classes and programs with a focus on organic land care such as full-day and half-day Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) classes, Rutgers Office of Continuing Professional Education classes, and any class that offers Northeast Organic Farming Association Accredited Organic Land Care Professional (AOLCP) credits. In addition, those certified can choose to attend one day of the annual 4-day RCE organic land care certification course to earn the 4 CEUs.

# COMPLIANCE ADVISORY

## Who should I contact with questions?

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## Where can I get more information?

The following web site can be accessed for additional information about the Organic Land Care Certification Program:

<http://www.njaes.rutgers.edu/organiclandcare/>

## For more information about our Compliance Advisory program or to comment on this advisory:

NJDEP Compliance Advisories are an electronic notification service of the NJDEP Compliance & Enforcement Program providing information to subscribers notifying them of upcoming important developments involving NJDEP's Compliance & Enforcement Program and their customers including changes in regulations, training opportunities, compliance assistance information and more. We generally issue 15-20 compliance advisories annually. Please visit:

Compliance Advisory Homepage: <http://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/advisories.html>

Advisory Comments may be directed to: <http://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/survey.html>

Please note this advisory is intended to be a summary explanation of a department initiative. It does not include all potentially applicable requirements. If you have any questions related to compliance with this initiative, please contact the Enforcement number listed above.