

# Other Definitions

- *“Organic land care is the design, construction and maintenance of landscapes using practices and products that preserve and support the health of ecosystems and human communities.”*
- *“Landscapes include natural and created environments including home gardens, parks, campuses, woodlands, etc., in urban, rural and suburban settings under human management, and includes the use of edible and ornamental plants.”*

- Oregon Tilth

# The Organic Land Care Practitioner

- Works with natural systems and processes to encourage and enhance biological diversity and native habitats.
- Optimizes and maintains the life supporting properties of soil, air and water.
- Utilizes renewable, biodegradable and recycled materials from local sources and minimizes waste.
- Considers the wider social and ecological impacts of landscapes and the practices and products used to create them.



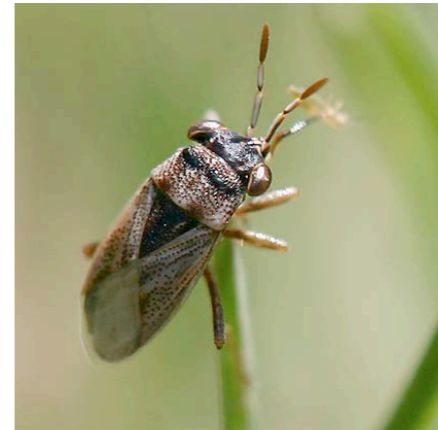
# What IS NOFA Organic Land Care?

*Organic land care is primarily about methods for landscaping that:*

- **Build healthy soils** *(Feed the Soil)*
- **Reduce watering and fertilizing needs**
- **Increase biodiversity** *(Work with Nature)*
- **Use local materials**
- **Protect water resources**
- **Protect health and the environment** *(Read the Label)*
- **Create natural beauty**

# The Three Take-Home Points

**1.** *Work with nature*



**2.** Feed the soil



**3.** Read the label



# Organic Land Care practices

- **Avoid nutrient pollution:** Nitrogen in marine systems, Phosphorus in freshwater. Organic standards limit fertilizer amounts and require natural fertilizers (slow release); encourage natural nutrient cycling.
- **Conserve water resources:** Reducing the need for irrigation – more water-holding capacity in soil with organic matter, more drought tolerance in grass with deep roots.
- **Avoid invasive species:** Organic standards prohibit planting invasives, encourage removal.



# What is NOT NOFA Organic Land Care?

***Organic land care is not about replacing synthetic chemical treatments with organic substitutes. It is about:***

- No synthetic pesticides or fertilizers *(Read the Label)*
- No genetically engineered organisms
- No sewage sludge or bio-solids
- No excess watering and fertilizing
- No invasive species
- Avoid toxic materials
- No contamination of water resources
- “Do No Harm”

