



7180 Republic Airport, East Farmingdale, NY 11735
Tel: 631-963-5454 ♦ Fax 631-963-5466
neighborhood-network.org

THE ORGANIC LANDSCAPER LISTING PROGRAM STANDARDS AND AGREEMENT 2015

This agreement must be signed by every business participating in the Neighborhood Network’s **ORGANIC LANDSCAPER LISTING PROGRAM**. *PLEASE RETURN TO NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK, 7180 REPUBLIC AIRPORT, FARMINGDALE, NY 11735 OR FAX TO 631-777-8281.*

The name of the Business : _____

The principle owner / President of the Business : _____

Address: _____

Business phone: _____

The DBA of the Organic Business (if different): _____.

PURPOSE AND BENEFITS

• One of Neighborhood Network’s goals is to be able to provide Long Island homeowners with a legitimate and accountable listing of landscapers/arborists/gardeners capable of providing 100% organic services. The term “organic” is not currently defined legally for horticultural services. Therefore Neighborhood Network, with assistance from the previously existing Board of the Long Island Organic Horticulture Association, which was made up of landscapers, developed the following set of standards.

• The program recognizes that some businesses which strive to provide organic services may still provide chemical services to some customers. The listing program allows for such companies, as long as customer contracts demonstrate that 100% organic services are being provided to all customers who contact the company as a result of advertisements or publicity related to the Organic Landscaper List.

• **Neighborhood Network distributes this list throughout Long Island, through our website, through a network of L.I. breast cancer action organizations, at our free lectures on organic lawn care, through our door-to-door canvas operations, phone canvas, and at tabling outreach events.**

Requirements and Responsibilities:

Continued Participation in the ORGANIC LANDSCAPER LISTING PROGRAM is subject to:

1. Maintaining business operations consistent with all of the standards set out in this document;
2. Providing access to a possible inspection performed by a neutral, professional inspector(s) retained by Neighborhood Network to inspect the Organic Business’ places of business, review of records, and speaking with personnel (see section below); and
3. Providing payment-in-full of program fees- **\$75 for businesses new to the list, and \$50 for renewals from last year’s list.**
4. Maintaining continuing education education in organic horticulture methods through the Organic Turf Trade Show, Nature Lyceum, Soil Food Web classes, or equivalent.
5. While your company may advertise that it participates in the Neighborhood Network’s Organic Landscaper Listing program, it may not claim to be endorsed by Neighborhood Network or any specific breast cancer group by name in its advertising.

ORGANIC HORTICULTURE DEFINED**NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK Definition of Organic Horticulture Practices and Products:**

The following definition of organic horticulture practices was adopted by the LIOHA Board of Directors in March 2000. This definition will be followed and adhered to by the Neighborhood Network's Organic Landscaper Listing Program:

Organic horticulture is an approach to growing that uses an understanding of ecosystems as a guide for caring for soil and plants. Organic horticulture works to recreate as closely as possible natural processes which support healthy plants. Materials and techniques used are those which promote healthy soil life, which are not toxic to humans, and which are least disruptive to the environment. Organic horticulture relies primarily on cultural and mechanical practices, organic fertilizers, composts and other forms of organic matter, rock dust minerals, microbial inoculants, and beneficial organisms to promote soil fertility and plant health. Synthetic chemical pesticides, synthetic fertilizers, and other toxic inputs are not used. Naturally derived products which present toxicity hazard to humans or non-target organisms under normal use are also prohibited.

Materials approved for use as organic by accredited certifying organizations (such as: NOFA and OMRI) are permitted, as are substances listed on the FIFRA 25(B) list which is determined by the Environmental Protection Agency.

APPROVED AND PROHIBITED PRODUCTS**Determining Which Products are Approved for use:**

The lists in this article are meant to be exhaustive. However, it is understood that products which may come under consideration for use by the landscaping business may not be included on any of the following lists. If you are not sure whether a product fits the description of organic here laid out, please compare the products to the lists of products approved by OMRI or NOFA, or request guidance from the Neighborhood Network.

Products Approved for use:

1. Beneficial insects
2. Beneficial nematodes
3. Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*)
4. Compost [Quality may vary, use your professional judgement and know your source.]
5. Corn gluten
6. Fish Emulsion
7. Garlic oil/juice
8. Horticultural oils (preferably vegetable-based instead of petrochemical-based!)
9. Kelp/seaweed extracts
10. Lemon & vinegar formulations
11. Lime
12. Microbial inoculants
13. Milky spore
14. Neem
15. 100% Organic fertilizers, with no more than 7% water soluble nitrogen.
16. Pheromone lures
17. Pyrethrin / pyrethrum
18. Rock dust minerals

- b. The products included in this list must not contain any ingredients which are prohibited from use.

We do not support the use of products that are genetically engineered (e.g. Bt, corn gluten), however it is understood that not all genetically modified (GM) products and ingredients on the market are labeled as such. An organic business will not be judged to have violated these standards if they do not have actual knowledge that a product included GM ingredients.

Products Prohibited for Use:

1. All synthetic, chemical pesticides.
2. Arsenic.
3. Biosolids (i.e. *Milorganite*)
4. Genetically modified products, ingredients, or seeds. Please be aware that grass seeds are not presently labeled when genetically modified. (Endophytically enhanced seed is not GM and therefore is permitted.)
5. Piperonyl butoxide and other synthetic ingredients.
6. Pyrethroids.
7. Tobacco.

Note: Participating Businesses, particularly with new construction, are encouraged to avoid the use of wood products that have been treated with creosote, pentachlorophenol or arsenic preservatives. Naturally long-lasting wood materials including cedar, locust, and redwood are recommended.

INSPECTIONS

Part of the ORGANIC LANDSCAPER LISTING PROGRAM involves possible inspections by neutral professional inspector(s) retained by Neighborhood Network. Neighborhood Network will make every effort to retain an Inspector who is a member of the IOIA (Independent Organic Inspectors Association) or a similar organization. The inspector is required to maintain strict confidentiality about companies' practices to protect "trade secrets." Also inspectors shall be instructed to not include customer identifying information in any reports.

Possible Inspections would be pre-scheduled at least 5 days in advance, and would involve:

1. Inspection of the all places from which business is conducted, business service vehicles; and the following business records:
 - a. invoices regarding the purchases of landscaping products;
 - b. all records required by regulatory agencies, including pesticide applicator filings, licenses, etc.
 - c. contracts used for customers; and
 - d. all advertisement literature.

The Organic Business can prepare for the inspection by cooperating with the arrangement of inspection appointments and by organizing relevant records.

Inspections, and Trade Secrets:

The neutral, professional inspector shall not divulge information about the businesses inspected that is unrelated to compliance with the standards established by this program. Customer lists, addresses, etc, shall not be shared with anyone including the Neighborhood Network staff.

Site visit reports are the property of Neighborhood Network and are only for internal, organizational use. They are not available outside the Neighborhood Network & inspector(s).

COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

All businesses are subject to removal from the ORGANIC LANDSCAPER LISTING PROGRAM, at any time, for any violation of the standards and guidelines set out in this document. Neighborhood Network will make a case-by-case judgement on problems, taking into consideration intent, commitment, and circumstances.

I agree to the terms of the above agreement:

Date: _____

On Behalf of the Business: _____

Company Name

Signature in the capacity as Owner / President of business

Print company owner's/president's name