

Why Organic is Better

Organic Fertilizers and Amendments:

Contain no inert ingredients

Will not burn plants

Ingredients are from nature: contain trace minerals, food for beneficial soil microorganisms (BSM), & organic matter

Feed and protect the BSM

BSM make more nutrients available and more easily absorbed by plant

BSM protect plants from diseases

BSM make soil more absorbent and permeable

Are soluble by microorganisms, not primarily water-soluble

The nutrients stay in soil & don't wash away

Provides slow-release nutrients over a long period of time

Contain nutrients in naturally occurring amounts

Provides steady nutrition to the plant at a sustainable pace that the plant can easily assimilate

The plant is stronger and more resistant to diseases and pests

The organic nutrients build up in the soil, and the plants need less and less organic fertilizer over time

Organic Gardening Saves You Time and Money!

Synthetic Fertilizers and Amendments:

Contain salts as inert ingredients or carriers

May burn plants if improperly applied

Lack trace minerals, food for BSM, and organic matter

Harm the beneficial soil microorganisms

Interfere with natural nutrient availability and uptake

Interfere with natural disease protection

Make the soil harder and less permeable

Are water-soluble

The products wash away into the aquifer, wasting \$ and polluting our groundwater

Are short-lived and must be reapplied more often (even "slow-release" Osmocote is not truly slow release – it's water-soluble)

Contain nutrients in abnormally high amounts

This causes the plant to absorb nutrients and grow at an abnormally fast rate

The plant is more susceptible to diseases and pests

It is as if the plant and soil become "addicted," and need more and more synthetic fertilizer over time

Synthetic Gardening Takes More Time and Money!

For more information on why and how organic methods are better, see the results of the Farming Systems Trial, a 30-year study by the Rodale Institute: <http://rodaleinstitute.org/our-work/farming-systems-trial/>.

For more information on the dangers of synthetic pesticides, see the information listed at <http://www.beyondpesticides.org/gateway/index.htm>