



Some Selected Resources on Organic Production for Greenhouse Growers

There has been an increase in the demand for organically grown greenhouse crops, especially organically grown vegetable and or herb transplants.



Figure 1: Organically Grown Pepper Transplants. Photos by L. Pundt

The USDA NOP guides development of standards for organic greenhouse production. <https://www.ams.usda.gov/about-ams/programs-offices/national-organic-program>

All growers who sell more than \$5000 produced each year are required to go through a certification process.

Most of Connecticut's organic farms are certified by Baystate Organic Certifiers. <http://baystateorganic.org/>

For a list of accredited certifying agents, see <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/organic-certification/certifying-agents>

CT NOFA: <https://www.ctnofa.org/>

NCAT: ATTRA Sustainable Agriculture. National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service. Compiles many different fact sheets on organic greenhouse production. 1-800-346-9140 or askanag@ncat.

Organic Greenhouse Vegetable Production – ATTRA
<https://attra.ncat.org/product/organic-greenhouse-vegetable-production/#:~:text=Organic%20greenhouse%20vegetable%20production%20is,or%20sustainable%20method%20of%20production.>

NCAT: ATTRA Herbs: Organic Greenhouse Production
<https://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub-summaries/?pub=53>
NCAT: ATTRA Plug and Transplant Production for Organic Systems
<https://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub-summaries/?pub=53>
NCAT: ATTRA: Organic Greenhouse Vegetable Production
<https://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub-summaries/?pub=53>

Greenhouse Organic Transplant Production

Biernbaum, J. A. 2006. Department of Horticulture, Michigan State University
<https://www.canr.msu.edu/outreach/uploads/files/AABI/Organic-Transplants-2013-13pgs.pdf>

Wander, M. 2015. Organic potting Mix Basics. EOrganic.
<https://eorganic.org/node/3442>

Using Organic Fertilizers

Beeks, S., N. Mattson and R. Lopez. 2014. Vermicompost 101 Grower Talks January 31, 2014. <https://www.growertalks.com/Article/?articleid=20563>

Cox, D. 2017. How to Use Nature's Source and Sustain as Organic Fertilizers for Spring Crops. UMass Greenhouse Webinar.
<https://ag.umass.edu/greenhouse-floriculture/education-events/webinars?page=1>

Cox D. 2016. Plant Response to Nature's Source and EcoVita Organic Fertilizers vs Plantex Chemical Fertilizer. July-Aug. Floral Notes 29(1).
https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/newsletters/16fnjuly_aug.pdf

Cox D. 2014. Organic Fertilizers - Thoughts on Using Liquid Organic Fertilizers for Greenhouse Plants. Sept.-Oct. Floral Notes 27(2)
<https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/newsletters/14fnseptoct272.pdf>

Kuack, D. 2014. Switching to Organic Fertilizer by Dave Kuack, Greenhouse Grower Magazine, April 2014
<https://www.greenhousegrower.com/production/crop-inputs/switching-to-organic-fertilizer/>

Mattson, N. and K. Williams. 2015. Organic Fertilizers Webinar: Successfully Making the Switch. Sponsored by E-Gro and Bioworks
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_BQWpe-QFSg

Mattson, N. 2014. Substrates and Fertilizers for Organic Vegetable Transplant Production. Cornell Greenhouse Horticulture
<http://www.greenhouse.cornell.edu/crops/organic.html>

Owen, W.G., R. Lopez, S. Beeks, and N. Mattson. 2014. Vermicompost Validity. GrowerTalks. Feb 27, 2014.
<https://www.growertalks.com/Article/?articleid=20606>

Pest Management

More growers are using biological controls in their greenhouses (biological fungicides, biological control agents and beneficial nematodes).

Go to http://ipm.uconn.edu/pa_greenhouse/ and see section on biological controls and organic fungicides and insecticides under vegetable transplants.

Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) Reviews products to determine whether they meet the National Organic Standards for use by organic growers. See searchable website: <https://www.omri.org/>

Compiled by L. Pundt, UConn Extension. 2020.

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