



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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5th Annual NOFA Organic Lawn & Turf Course at UMass Amherst August 7th
Course happens during the 35th Annual NOFA Summer Conference, Aug. 7-9!

AMHERST, MA – The NOFA Organic Land Care Program, a project of the Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA) of Massachusetts, will hold the 5th annual NOFA Organic Lawn & Turf Course at UMass Amherst in Amherst, MA on Friday, August 7, 2009 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This one-day, intensive course will provide state-of-the-art information for managing lawns and turf organically and is geared toward land care professionals, groundskeepers and municipalities who are responsible for the establishment and care of grass, as well as anyone interested in learning organic methods.

The course will be taught by NOFA Accredited Organic Land Care Professional Donald Bishop of Gardens Are Inc. in Marlborough, MA, CT NOFA Executive Director Bill Duesing of Solar Farm Education in Oxford, CT, nationally renowned organic turfgrass educator Chip Osborne of Osborne Organics in Marblehead, MA, and entomological scientist Dr. Kimberly Stoner of the CT Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven, CT.

NEW THIS YEAR! The course will include a special section on Water Management and Conservation led by noted engineer and water conservation expert Amy Vickers, president of Amy Vickers & Associates Inc. of Amherst, MA. There will also be plenty of time for Q&A and networking. Lunch is provided.

All course participants will receive a copy of the *NOFA Organic Lawn & Turf Handbook: Beautiful Grass Naturally*, which serves as the course manual. This 100-page comprehensive, practical and easy-to-use reference manual was written and edited by scientists and experts in the field of organic lawn and turf care, this book covers what landscapers, landscape designers, municipal staff and homeowners need to know to grow natural and organic lawns. Topics include: Why Organic? Site Analysis, Soil Health, Cultural Practices, Weeds, Insects, Diseases, Obtaining Materials and Equipment, Running a Business, Client Relations and much more.

The NOFA Organic Lawn & Turf Course is happening concurrently with the 35th annual NOFA Summer Conference at UMass Amherst. The Summer Conference features over 170 workshops on organic growing along with two keynote presentations, a country fair, evening entertainment, music, dancing, special children and teens' conferences and much more! Visit www.nofasummerconference.org for more info!

The NOFA Organic Lawn & Turf Course costs \$150 for the first person from a firm/town and \$125 each additional person. Sat/Sun NOFA Summer Conference registrants receive a \$30 discount on the combined registration fees. For more information or to register, visit www.organiclandcare.net or www.nofasummerconference.org. With questions, please contact Kathy Litchfield, NOFA/Mass OLC Program Coordinator, at (413) 773-3830 or kathy@nofamass.org.

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Northeast Organic Farming Association, Massachusetts Chapter, Inc.

NOFA/Mass is a community including farmers, gardeners, landscapers and consumers working to educate members and the general public about the benefits of local organic systems based on complete cycles, natural materials, and minimal waste for the health of individual beings, communities and the living planet.

Posted calendar listing to NOFA chapters and multiple enewsletters and websites 6/10

Press Releases to selected reporters including Robert Knox (globe), Carol Stocker (Globe), Mary Sereze (Valley Advocate)6/11

Press Release to garden club list 6/11

Press Release to gardening show list 6/18