

Your Highly Productive Organic Garden
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Some General Principles

- Keep the soil covered with hopefully green material – as long in the year as possible
- Minimize disturbance – don't kill the mycorrhizae
- Maximize diversity
- Utilize mulches of all types
- Covercrop before, during after the season – a diverse mix – legumes, grasses, forbes, brassicas

Maximize Photosynthesis

- Feed the plant so that it can feed the soil and nature can set up a symbiotic relationship between the two systems.
 - Food for the plant right out of the starting gate supported by living soil organisms – plants need microbes to digest their food for them
 - Foliar feeding
 - Soil drenches
 - Slow release rock powders

Our Practices

- Certified organic since 1987
 - Vegetables 2 acres
 - Fruit 100 fruit trees
 - 250 meat birds, 125 turkeys, 200 layers, 8 pigs
 - Grassland 7 acres
 - Woods – 44 acres
 - Gross revenue in 2021 - \$150,000
- Mineral balancing soil amendments as per soil tests annually – Logan Labs test –
- No tillage equipment – no more than once annual usage of a ripper on tractor tool bar
- Tractor and rotary and hand mowers, rogue hoe
- Heavy usage of mulch in season – cardboard, hay, chips, leaves
- Cover crops whenever possible – in season, pre-season and post season
- Silage tarps to kill greenery in season and adding new land
- Animal integration post crop
- Perennial strips to maximize biodiversity – especially noticed insect/pollinator enhancement
- Extensive use of liquid fertility at planting and weekly in foliar applications—minerals, biostimulants, biologicals - consulting with Advancing Eco Agriculture with their products, Tainio Technology and Crop Health Labs and Nova CropControl in Netherlands

Help with Reading your Soil Test from Logan Labs

- NOFA/Mass Technical Assistance -
<https://www.nofamass.org/nofa-mass-technical-assistance/>

MHOF Soil applications of dry minerals for 2022

- Boron via solubor
- Redman salt
- Potassium sulfate
- Manganese sulfate
- Zinc sulfate
- Elemental sulfur
- 4 applications for vegetables
- 2 applications for fruit trees and berries

Don't forget the rock dust – Rock Dust Local



Soil Prep Equipment - Rogue Hoe



Rogue Hoe



Cardboard mulch before wood chips





Krischaun spreading wood chips over cardboard



Mulching grapes – with cardboard and chips





Mulching – Hay, wood chips, leaves, cardboard, corn stalks, etc., etc.



Heavily Mulched parsley and squash



Gathering leaves for mulch



On the road again



Crimson clover inter-planted with Swiss Chard



Corn with multi-species cover crop – Greencover seed



Oats, peas, daikon after potatoes



Tomatoes in crimson clover



Using Tarps



Tarps and Black sand bags



Pigs on edges and in woods



Young turkeys on pasture



Turkeys After Crops in Fall



Chickens coming across crimson under-sow –
was basil, peppers, tomatoes, cukes



Perennial Strips in vegetable areas



Some Products from Advancing Eco Agriculture for Gardeners

- Biocoat Gold - \$52.28/lb. – seed coat
- Mycogenesis - \$97.17/lb.- mix with liquids below for microbial stimulation
- Naturalive Growth - \$32.43/Gallon - macros
- Naturalive Vitality - \$45.92/Gallon - micros
- Sea Shield - \$22.31/gallon - Nitrogen
- Sea Stem – \$35.19/gallon - Kelp/Seaweed
- Rejuvenate - \$41.85 – microbe support/sugars





Squash planted and then heavily mulched



The harvest











Emergency Pepper Frost September 19, 2020

























Starting Seedlings

- Good quality potting soil – we use Ideal Compost products – Mike Lombard
- Lay low on the N and K and focus on the Ca and P for fertility
- Start seeds indoors not too early so they can grow consistently from start to finish, not get leggy, not get root bound, not suffer from lack of sun – 4 weeks in flats ideal
- Start in open flats to enhance soil connection











Practices to remember

- Multi-species winter kill cover crops late August – late September – intersown in living crops or on finished crop areas
- Intersown crimson clover and shorter cover crops early – under brassicas, tomatoes, corn, etc. to enhance crop health – starting in early July as plants are big enough
- Early cover crops on areas that won't be planted until early June – oats and peas
- Use silage tarps strategically throughout the season for succession crops and if grass has gotten ahead of you
- Cardboard and hay over winter when grasses take over and/or improved fertility is particularly wanted
- Leaves, hay and wood chips for mulch
- Maximize keeping the soil covered– living best, or dead as necessary
- Animals in rotation whenever and wherever possible
- Well targeted foliar sprays and soil drenches

