



**NOFA/Massachusetts**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 2011**

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## **“Organic Lawns & Landscapes Refresher” Workshops Delve into Practical Solutions**

Friday, August 12 – 8am to Noon – UMass Amherst – with Chip Osborne

Friday, August 19 – 9am to 1pm – Newburyport – with Javier Gil

**AMHERST & NEWBURYPORT** -- How do I interpret, and then do, what a soil test recommends? What do I do with a grub-infested lawn? Where do I get organic products and how do I use them? What is the systems approach to organic landscaping and how do I start doing it?

Answers to these questions and many more will be discussed in depth by Chip Osborne and Javier Gil, during the first-ever NOFA/Mass “Organic Lawns & Landscapes Refresher” workshops, happening Friday, August 12 from 8am to Noon at UMass Amherst, Campus Center Room 904-908, with Chip Osborne, in conjunction with the NOFA Summer Conference; and again Friday, August 19 from 9am to 1pm at the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge in Newburyport, with Javier Gil.

Practical skills and problem solving will be the focus of these four-hour intensive workshops. Beginning with an overview of the systems approach to organic landscaping; soil testing; soil amendments; managing nutrition; grass types; and compost tea, Osborne and Gil will then delve into practical solutions for real-life landscape problems.

Case study examples will be explored in depth within small groups, with the goal of boosting students’ hands-on knowledge of organic lawns and landscaping and how to transition to organic management with success, cost-efficiency and grace.

From Friday August 12 through Sunday August 14, the NOFA Summer Conference will also take place at the UMass Amherst campus. Stay for the weekend to select from over 200 organic growing workshops, enjoy organic food, friends and exhibitors. For more info: [www.nofasummerconference.org](http://www.nofasummerconference.org).

The “Organic Lawns & Landscapes Refresher” Workshops are approved for re-accreditation credits for professionals. The cost is \$100 for the general public; \$75 for NOFA members and NOFA Accredited Organic Land Care Professionals. Walk-ins welcome (bring check made out to NOFA/Mass). To register visit [www.nofamass.org/programs/landcare/index.php](http://www.nofamass.org/programs/landcare/index.php) or contact coordinator Kathy Litchfield at (413) 773-3830 or [Kathy@nofamass.org](mailto:Kathy@nofamass.org). Online registration using Visa or Mastercard is available at [www.nofamass.org](http://www.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.*

## **Calendar Listings:**

**August 12, 2011** – “Organic Lawns & Landscape Refresher” workshop, 8am to Noon, UMass Amherst, Campus Center 904-908, with expert Chip Osborne. Intensive, practical, problem-solving focus. Soil testing, compost tea and grass types and nutrition will be discussed. Cost: \$100 general public; \$75 NOFA members and AOLCPs. More info: Kathy Litchfield at (413) 773-3830 or [kathy@nofamass.org](mailto:kathy@nofamass.org). Online registration at [www.nofamass.org](http://www.nofamass.org).

**August 19, 2011** – “Organic Lawns & Landscape Refresher” workshop, 9am to 1pm, Parker River National Wildlife Refuge, Newburyport, with expert Javier Gil. Intensive, practical, problem-solving focus. Soil testing, compost tea and grass types and nutrition will be discussed. Cost: \$100 general public; \$75 NOFA members and AOLCPs. More info: Kathy Litchfield at (413) 773-3830 or [kathy@nofamass.org](mailto:kathy@nofamass.org). Online registration at [www.nofamass.org](http://www.nofamass.org).

## **Email Blast (for both workshops):**

NOFA/Mass will host two “Organic Lawns & Landscapes Refresher” workshops, on Friday, August 12 from 8am to Noon at UMass Amherst, Campus Center Room 904-908, with Chip Osborne, in conjunction with the NOFA Summer Conference; and again Friday, August 19 from 9am to 1pm at the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge in Newburyport, with Javier Gil.

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Cost: \$100 for the general public; \$75 for NOFA members and NOFA AOLCPs. Register online at [www.nofamass.org](http://www.nofamass.org). More info: Kathy Litchfield at (413) 773-3830 or [Kathy@nofamass.org](mailto:Kathy@nofamass.org).

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