

Ron's 7 Steps to Organic Dynamics

Converting to organics is easier than you might think. It's a matter of changing to a simpler healthier way of life. In a nutshell, it's using products and practices that build the health of the soil and everything that grows in or on it. It's avoiding synthetic artificially concocted products like harmful pesticides and synthetic fertilizers.

#1 Wearing protective clothing and a mask, go through your garage, garden shed and cleaning closet collecting all the non-organic weed killers, fertilizers, pest control products and cleaning supplies. Then take them to your municipal waste disposal center. Do not use them up or give them away. If you can smell it, it's causing metabolic mayhem. So, dispose of them. There's an organic solution for every household and landscaping task. Adopt non-toxic household practices. You'll find about a dozen in this pamphlet. Vinegar, baking soda and orange oil work wonders.

#2 Visit an independent full-service organic garden center. Spend some time looking at the products. Look at the books and information sheets. Ask questions. We who specialize in organics pride ourselves on sharing our knowledge. Don't be misled by the inept efforts of the big box stores to cash in on the organic movement.

#3 Start a compost pile. Select an out-of-the-way area and simply pile up leaves, weeds, kitchen scraps and, especially sugary drinks. There's no need for a container, but for neatness or to keep the dog out, you may use wire fencing. Keep the pile slightly moist. The more often you turn it, the sooner it will become a wonderful natural food for all the living things in your soil.

#4 Jump start your landscape. First, apply fully digested compost at the rate of one cubic yard per 1000 square feet. That's a layer about 1/3 inch thick. Wait a month, then aerate mechanically. The compost will have softened your soil allowing for a deeper penetration so that more air, water and nutrients will penetrate the soil increasing the flow in the

humus pipeline.

#5 Apply granular feeding at 20 pounds per 1000 square feet starting in February then every 8 to 12 weeks until October. My SPRING, SUMMER and FALL BLENDS are the best because they are formulated for our climate and soil. They contain over 20 ingredients to stimulate more diverse soil flora and fauna that will bring life to even the poorest landscape. Foliar feed weekly to monthly to enhance plant stamina and vigor so they can prevail against disease and insects. My SUPER SAUCE is the perfect foliar feed.

#6 Mulch. Covering all your non-turf areas with 2 to 3 inches of mulch provides many benefits.

- It cushions the soil protecting it from compaction caused by foot traffic, rainfall and sprinklers.

- Ultraviolet rays sterilize the soil killing off much needed microorganisms. Mulch is a sunscreen.

- It's a blanket helping to retain moisture and keep plants cooler in summer and warmer in the winter.

- It deters weed germination.

- And, it helps control grasshoppers. Females lay eggs in bare soil. The best mulch is shredded cedar. It repels pest insects and helps to neutralize our alkaline soil. The worst is pine bark.

#7 Water no more than 1/2" a week in the Winter, 1" in the Spring and Fall and 1 1/2" in the summer. Over-watering and poor drainage are the biggest causes of insect infestation and disease. If you have a sprinkling system, have it inspected quarterly by a licensed irrigator who understands plants—not just pipes. Our professional water audits have reduced water consumption by as much as 30%. On a 10,000 square foot lot this can save 62,500 gallons annually. That's 100 full fire trucks or one million cups of life sustaining water.

Our Story

It all started in early 1997. Ron Hall, a dedicated Dallas firefighter, had already established a very successful organic lawn care business - Rons Lawn. It was time to open an organic garden center.

Ron wasn't satisfied just to buy products from distributors and sell them to consumers. He was determined to improve on organic products. His quest was, and continues to be, "to know more, do more and be more" in the field of organic landscape management.

So he studied, took courses, attended lectures and read books. He consulted with leaders in the field of organics.

He had the perfect lab for his experiments - his hundreds of landscape maintenance clients. He tried his formulations on thousands of plants and hundreds of lawns

His goal - to develop organic products that are effective, easy to use and affordable.

All of RONS CUSTOM BLENDS are practical and logical. POND PELLETS are a great example. Corn meal is the organic solution to pond algae. To work it must get into the water where it can tie up excess phosphorous. But, horticultural corn meal floats. Ron's pelletized cornmeal immediately sinks to the bottom of the pond where it can solve the problem.

At RONS ORGANICS you'll find almost two dozen special products carefully formulated to make your gardening experiences more rewarding. Come in to learn how Ron's special blends can help you to have a beautiful landscape without breaking your budget.

Treasure those leaves

Every leaf that falls in Autumn is a resource in disguise. If possible, leave them where they fall as a natural mulch. Or use a blower or a rake to collect them for your compost pile. It's best to shred them so they don't mat in the pile. If that's not possible, turn your pile more frequently. It's always best to keep your leaves on your property.

Eggshell water

When you hard cook eggs, save the water. It's rich in minerals. After it has cooled, use it to water and lightly fertilize your houseplants.

Snake-free space

Snakes are very beneficial, but it makes sense to keep them out of some spaces like a child's play area. Lay a 3/4-inch thick sisal rope on the ground completely around the space. Snakes won't crawl over the bristly rope.

Effortless microwave cleaner

Add 1/4 cup of white vinegar to a cup of water in a Pyrex vessel. Microwave it on high for five minutes. But don't open the oven. Wait for about 10 minutes. By then the water will have cooled and all the baked on deposits will have softened to the point where a simple swipe with a paper towel dipped in the cooled liquid will dispatch them with little effort. And your microwave will be sweet-smelling too.

Poison ivy alert

While we never recommend burning leaves and other plant material, make sure you never burn poison ivy. The oils that cause the allergic reaction are carried in the smoke. It can cause very serious damage to your respiratory system. If your skin is exposed to poison ivy, rub the areas with orange peeling or coffee grounds—the hotter the better. The acid will neutralize toxic oils.

Silverfish Trap

Silverfish can be trapped in small glass containers. Wrap the outside with masking tape and set the container upright in areas where you've seen silverfish. They will climb up the taped surface to get in, but won't be able to climb out.

Bulb Planting Illusion

Get the biggest bang for your bulb budget. First, choose the spot from which most people will view the flowers—the street, living room window or patio. Then plant the bulbs in a triangle pointing at that location. The distance from the point to the flat side at the back gives a sense of depth and the wide back side defines the width. In effect you double the visual impact you would have achieved with a square or oval arrangement.

Worms Love RONS BLENDS

Worms are about the single best indicator of biological activity in your soil. Worms choose to live in soil loaded with organic matter and free from the inorganic salts found in most synthetic fertilizers.

On a cloudy day when it's about 55 degrees, dig up a cubic foot of soil, screen it over a wheelbarrow and count your worms. If you find 10 or more, congratulate yourself. You have healthy well aerated soil.

Worms work 24 hours a day – never resting. They digest organic matter and mix it with the soil to make earthworm castings. A worm can produce its own weight in castings every 24 hours. These are up to 7 times more nutritious than native soil— rich in calcium, nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium among other things.

Castings are loaded with mucous and resins that improve the structure of the soil. They also contain certain beneficial organisms that only multiply in the gut of a worm. While feeding, earthworms consume the spores of mycorrhizae, a beneficial fungi. These spores are too large to easily find their way to plant roots. But via the worm's burrowing, they are deposited near roots where they explode into fungal hyphae that cause the roots to be up to 10 times more efficient in extracting nutrients. As that worm moves in and out of the soil, it pulls air in and pushes air out. It's like the vascular and respiratory systems of your soil combined.

If your soil fails the worm test, feed the humus pipeline and they will come. Follow Simple Step #4 Jumpstart your landscape. Then, apply a blended soil food to stimulate the microbe populations to break down organic matter faster and even pull nitrogen, carbon and oxygen right out of the air. This increases the carbon content of the soil.

I developed my RONS BLENDS with the help of K. Chandler, the founder of Texas Plant and Soil Lab and the most respected soil scientist in the state of Texas. I drew upon my 20 years of professional landscape experience combined with my fire fighter paramedic training. There are commonalities among all life forms. People don't do well when they can't breathe, neither does the life in the soil. Paramedic training emphasizes the importance of respiration and circulation. You have all the nutrients in the world, but they won't support life unless they are delivered to the organism on a consistent basis.

Everything I do is based on improving the circulation and respiration of the soil. Nutritionists recommend that we eat a wide variety of fruits, vegetables and proteins. You wouldn't want to eat the same thing everyday. And, if you did, you'd suffer some breakdown due to nutrient deficiency. This is why I've developed my Blends with multiple ingredients fine-tuned to the seasons and soil types.

Each RONS BLEND has 10 or more ingredients.

RONS BLENDS

RONS BLENDS are produced with care at Rons Organics. They are packed in simple biodegradable bags or opaque bottles. Each is a formulation of 10 to 20 quality organic ingredients specially blended to a specific season or application.

- RONS SUPER BLOOM
- RONS PLANT MIX
- RONS SUPER COMPOST
- RONS SUPER BLEND
- RONS SPRING BLEND
- RONS SUMMER BLEND
- RONS FALL BLEND
- RONS GROW GAIN
- RONS POND PELLETS
- RONS SUPER SAUCE
- RONS AUNT BE GONE
- RONS SPEEDY WEEDY
- RONS ROOT RIGHT
- RONS CHOPPER STOPPER

Plus we carry a variety of high quality gardening products in bulk including organic bedding soil, fine cedar mulch and SOIL THERAPY COMPOST™.

Check out SOIL THERAPY COMPOST™ at:

www.soiltherapy.org/

Corn Meal Beats

Nail Fungus

If you suffer from finger or toe nail fungus, you know that the prescription medications are very expensive, are slow to work - if at all, and can cause liver damage. Ouch!

Here's the safe, inexpensive organic solution. Pick a container big enough to soak the affected nails. It could be a coffee cup for fingers or a dish pan for toes.

Put about 1/2 inch of cornmeal in the container and add enough warm -not hot, water to cover it plus a bit. Let this slurry sit for about a half hour. Then add more warm water to make it comfortable to soak your afflicted digits. An hour is a good soaking time.

Repeat the process every week or so. Before long you'll begin to notice fresh healthy nail tissue at the base of your nails. It will take a while for you to trace your new healthy nail growth from base to tip.

Compost and Mulch are worth it

A five percent increase in organic material quadruples the soil's ability to store water.

Pruning Time

With a few exceptions, this isn't it. Don't get in a hurry to prune woody plants and trees. Late December through February is usually the best time.

Exception: Prune away dead wood before the leaves fall -when it is highly visible.

Average first frost and freeze

Weather in Texas is hardly predictable. But, records show that on average, our first frost hits on November 12th and our first freeze follows on November 22nd. But, that's a light freeze – no less than 28 degrees. Use frost blanket or floating row cover and even your green leafy vegetables will be fine. The average last frost is March 15th.

Sweet tender corn

Never salt the cooking water for corn-on-the-cob. It will toughen the kernels. Add a pinch of sugar, if you like, to keep the corn sweet and tender. Or cook in a half-and-half mixture of milk and water.

Weed and feed fertilizers = A major NO! NO!

Under no conditions should anyone use any weed and feed fertilizer. First of all, it makes no sense. Life and death cannot occur at the same time. Second, it's a waste of money. You're spreading weed killer all over—not just where needed. Third, it pollutes our waterways. And, most importantly, the herbicide is Atrazine, a chemical that kills trees. Oh, one more thing, it kills people. People who are exposed to Atrazine have higher rates of breast cancer and prostate cancer. And children are particularly vulnerable to chemicals. Atrazine has been banned in Europe.

Herbs in the shade

While most herbs prefer full sun, parsley, mint and thyme will not only tolerate shade but actually prefer it during our hot, dry summers.

Landscapers discounts

Here at Ron's we offer discounts to other landscapers and lawn maintenance companies. Just bring in a taxpayer ID and receive the following discounts on bulk products and all Ron's Blends:

30% off all Ron's Products

30% off all plants, shrubs, trees, perennials and annuals

20% off bulk materials

(listed on page 4)

570 KLIF Talk Radio

The Natural Living and Garden Show
Tune in Sunday Mornings from 8:00-9:00a.m.
To the "Natural Living and Garden Show" with
Ron and Mona Hall, Owners of Ron's Organics
Garden Center and Gift Shop
Call 972-329-4769 or email us at:
info@organicdynamics.com



Ron's Organic Garden Center
Quality is not expensive, it is priceless
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Mesquite, TX 75181
www.organicdynamics.com

Who is Ron Hall ----- The Lawn Doctor?

Ron Hall, Lawn Doctor Ron, is a certified landscape professional, a certified master nursery professional, a licensed irrigator and a licensed pesticide applicator, arborist and radio talk show host. In addition to being a full-time firefighter, Ron has over 25 years experience in landscaping with a concentration on organic gardening. He and his wife Mona own Ron's Organics in Mesquite

Check your tree trunks

If they go straight into the ground like a fencepost your trees are planted too deep. It's important to scrape away the soil until you see the root flare. If the root flare is not exposed, the tree roots will circle and strangle the tree. And the trunk tissue below grade will deteriorate due to the moisture in the soil.

Organic Home Tips

To remove chewing gum from a child's hair, carefully work orange oil into the gummed strands with your fingers. The gum will dissolve. Then shampoo.

To clean a drain pour 1/4 cup of baking soda down the drain followed by 1/2 cup of white vinegar. Wait an hour, then flush with boiling water.

Clean vinyl floors and laminate counter tops with 50/50 warm water and white vinegar. They'll be squeaky clean and it will help to repel ants.

Polish wood furniture with 1 part lemon juice and 2 parts vegetable oil.

Remove stains from white kitchen linens by dabbing the stain with lemon juice. Then hang the fabric in the sun.

Simple soil moisture test

Digging in wet soil causes compaction. To judge wetness, pick up a handful of soil and form a ball. Toss it up about 6 inches. If it doesn't disintegrate, wait for the soil to dry out more.

One Unique Garden Center

Come by the garden center to check out all our unique gifts. We have everything from Texas grown Salsa's to natural cleaning supplies, most under \$20. We also have over 30 different free handouts to help you to go ORGANIC.

Southeast corner of S Beltline and Lake June Road
Monday thru Saturday 8-5:30
March thru June, Sundays 10-4
972-329-GROW (4769)

BULK MATERIAL

Sold by 1/2 cubic yard increments

Fine Red Mulch
Compost
Bedding Mix
Expanded Shale
Super Compost
Concrete Sand
Cushion Sand

Fine Cedar Mulch
Leveling Mix
Decomposed Granite
Fine Black Mulch
Pea Gravel
Brick Sand

Come See Us!

Make the effort to come to see us at Rons Organics. Like most full-service organic garden centers, we offer all the brand name products. And, we have friendly knowledgeable people anxious to help you make the best decisions.

Here are some other great reasons.

- We offer the finest organic products available today. Our **RON'S Blends** are only available here because we produce and package them ourselves using the finest ingredients such as organic, goat, rabbit manure and organic coffee grounds.
- We propagate and maintain our plants organically -trees, shrubs, tropicals, perennials, annuals and herbs.
- We are truly full service. We can design, install and maintain all your landscaping. We can apply any of our organic products -one-time or on a seasonal basis. We have a licensed irrigation treatment operation - organic of course.
- And our prices are very affordable. So, come see us. We're confident that you'll be pleased.