



# Making the transition to Organic Farming

Making the transition to organic or sustainable farming begins when you identify the need to change practices and there are many reasons for doing this. Some of the most common reasons include wanting to reduce chemical inputs on the farm, to create a competitive advantage or to reduce the environmental impact of farming practices.

From this point the transition phase involves making a commitment. This will ensure the process is successful. If you have been farming conventionally, it is best to allocate two to three seasons to make the conversion to a completely organic system. Start with a small trial area enabling you to test new systems and gain confidence with the techniques.

During the trial period the goal is to convert to an organic crop nutritional program, including soil and tissue testing, use of cover crops and altering crop rotations if appropriate.

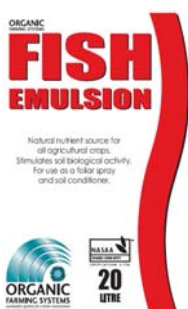
Once the crop nutrition basics are under control we can then introduce natural weed control, natural pest and disease control. This requires a good understanding of pest and disease lifecycles.

The conversion of a horticultural enterprise to organic is generally straight forward, although the first conversion takes place in the mind of the grower. You need a strong commitment to a sustainable production system before any change in practices can occur.

Organic Farming Systems can help simplify the process of converting to organic or sustainable farming practices. We can provide step by step plans on how to proceed, or provide guidance via soil and tissue testing.

We recommend soil and tissue testing as the most economical way to manage your crop. These tests identify the current level of minerals and nutrients in your soil, and how well the plant is absorbing these. Our tests provide you with organic and/or integrated recommendations as required. We are also able to provide recommendations based on your own soil and tissue testing.

This information is of a general nature - seek specific advice for your situation.



Organic Farming Systems specialises in providing low cost natural fertilisers to improve your soils and crop growth.

OFS Fish Emulsion is a natural foliar spray providing a wide range of important nutrients .