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WHAT WE DO

PJC Organic is the manufacturer of ProHealthy Turf Organic Products & distributor of soil amendments. We provide product and support to landscapers, schools, & municipalities that want to transition from a conventional approach to an All-Natural Organic Turf Care program for the maintenance of their lawns & athletic fields.

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CUSTOMER SPOTLIGHT

MANAGING HEAVILY USED FIELDS ORGANICALLY

Interview w/ Pete Stokes of the City of Stamford CT & Pam Newcombe of PJC

In this interview, Pete Stokes, Landscape Specialist with Stamford Parks and Recreation, shares how the transition to organic land care has unfolded and how working with PJC Organic has helped the department build healthier, more resilient fields over time.

In 2021, the City of Stamford passed an [organic land ordinance](#) that restricts the use of pesticides and synthetic fertilizers on all city-owned property, including parks, open spaces, and athletic fields. The ordinance reflects a city-wide commitment to protecting human health, pollinators, and local ecosystems while shifting toward more sustainable land care practices. This policy change set the stage for Stamford Parks and Recreation to rethink how it manages natural turf, particularly as field use continues to increase and resources remain limited.

How long have you been with Stamford Parks & Recreation, and what's your background?

I've been with the department since 2001. Over the years, I earned my Turf and Grounds License and now serve as one of two Landscape Specialists responsible for maintaining roughly 33 acres of natural turf—baseball, softball, and soccer—and those fields receive an incredible amount of play. I've spent my whole life in sports, from coaching to umpiring, so doing this work for my hometown is something I feel genuinely grateful for.

One of the first things PJC worked on with you was field prioritization, how did that impact your turf care program?

The tiered grading system was huge for us. With a finite budget and limited staff, you have to allocate resources wisely. Not every field can (or should) be managed the same way, and that framework helped us make smarter decisions.

Before going organic, what did your turf program look like?

For about 19 years, we ran a traditional synthetic program that included four applications a year: pre-emergent, post-emergent, pest control, and feeding and the fields were good. They handled the play reasonably well. (cont. p2)



Pete Stokes

CUSTOMER SPOTLIGHT Stamford, CT (cont...)

Since working with PJC, I've learned the difference between feeding grass and feeding soil. That mindset shift has been big for me. Organics look at turf as a system, not just a surface. Early in the season—April and May—you won't find better-looking fields. Mid-summer, with heat, drought, and constant play, things can look rough. But come September and October, the fields rebound beautifully.

What are some of the external pressures you deal with?

The switch to organic happened very quickly; it was a decision made at a higher level that we didn't have any control over. At the same time, we were dealing with labor shortages, extreme weather, drought, and grub pressure. On top of that, field use has increased tremendously.

You also manage artificial fields. How do they compare?

We have three artificial fields. They're used constantly, and they require outsourced grooming, repairs, and testing. They solve some problems, but they come with their own set of costs and maintenance realities.

What challenges are you facing day-to-day?

Geese are a major issue, and grub damage on a few fields that required targeted rescue treatments. Scheduling maintenance around nonstop sports use is probably our biggest challenge.

Where are you seeing success?

Early-season performance has been a real win. We host the Fairfield County Interscholastic Athletic Conference at Cubetta Stadium and come the 22nd of May, that place is looking like a champ. Another success is the Great Lawn area. There's no irrigation, and we struggled to maintain turf there before. Now we have grass, and people want to use the space. In passive areas across the city, we're seeing steady improvement. When people are playing and gathering in spaces they never used before, that tells me we're doing something right.

How many of your challenges are related to organic management versus weather and usage?

Weather patterns, increased play, and management choices all impact outcomes. It's tough to tell, but organics have given us fields that recover and improve over time instead of just being patched season to season.

Any advice for other municipalities considering organic turf?

Choose the right partner. PJC is a wonderful partner. You have answered every question. If any problem has come up, you guys come through. If someone asked me about organic fields, I'd absolutely send them your way. You guys have been with us since the beginning.

Through the organic land ordinance and continued collaboration with PJC Organic, Stamford Parks and Recreation is building turf systems that support both community recreation and environmental responsibility, offering a thoughtful model for other municipalities considering the transition to organic management.

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE INTERVIEW IN ITS ENTIRETY >](#)

PRODUCT PROMOS

PJC 2026 Pricing Now Available!

✓PJC ProHealthy Turf All-Natural
Organic Fertilizer & Soil Amendments

✓PJC Premium Grass Seed

✓PJC Pest Control & Liquid Products

Soil Testing



Taking a soil sample is simple, but interpreting soil test results can be challenging. Too often, results come back full of technical data that may not make sense to you — and certainly won't make sense to your customer. A professional soil test is a powerful tool for setting customer expectations and establishing realistic budget priorities.

**Get your soil test supplies now &
Let PJC Do the Work for You!**

REQUEST
PRICING >

PJC'S HEALTHY TURF CIRCLE

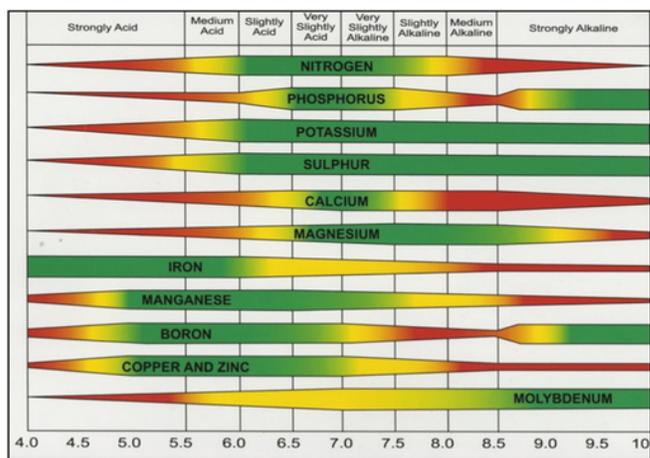
A Practical Framework for Resilient Lawns

At PJC Organic, we believe healthy turf begins with healthy soil. That's why our Organic Turf Care (OTC) philosophy centers on what we call the Healthy Turf Circle — a practical, interconnected system that starts at the ground and works its way up. This holistic approach looks at soil chemistry, soil biology, soil structure, and cultural practices to create turf that's strong, resilient, and managed without synthetic fertilizers or pesticides.



1. Soil Chemistry: The Foundation of Nutrient Availability

Soil chemistry — especially soil pH — sets the stage for everything that follows. Turf grass thrives when nutrients are accessible, and pH largely controls that availability. In most Northeastern soils, acidity dominates, making pH adjustment critical. The ideal pH range for turf is roughly 6.2–6.9, with 6.5–6.8 being optimal.



As the graph shows, maintaining proper soil chemistry ensures essential nutrients (like nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, and micronutrients) are in forms turf can absorb. Soil testing guides targeted corrections — such as lime to raise pH or gypsum to adjust calcium — and helps choose the right organic fertilizers and amendments to support turf growth and soil biology.

2. Soil Biology: Feeding Life Beneath the Surface

Once chemistry is balanced, soil biology takes center stage. Turf health depends on a thriving community of soil organisms — from bacteria that make nutrients plant-available to soil insects and fungi that support aggregation and nutrient cycling.

Organisms break down organic matter and create food for grass roots, naturally protecting turf from stress and pests.

In organic systems, we emphasize feeding beneficial microbes rather than forcing rapid top growth with soluble inputs. PJC ProHealthy Turf® fertilizers and amendments provide a steady food source for soil life, building a balanced biological system that supports long-term turf health.

3. Soil Structure: Creating the Framework for Growth

Soil structure — the way soil particles form aggregates — influences water and air movement, nutrient retention, and root penetration. Well-structured soil holds water and air in the right balance, resists compaction, and supports deeper roots and more resilient turf. Organic matter is the key to good structure. Natural inputs like plant roots, grass clippings, and leaves help form aggregates, while products containing humic acids accelerate those improvements. Increasing organic matter enhances nutrient-holding capacity (CEC), improves water retention, and creates a rich environment where soil biology thrives.

4. Cultural Practices: The Bridge from Soil to Turf

Even the most carefully balanced soil can't deliver results without proper cultural practices. These fundamental maintenance activities influence turf density, resilience, weed pressure, organic matter accumulation, and what you see above ground. Key practices include:

- Mowing: mow as high as use will allow, cut no more than 1/3 of the leaf blade at a time and return clippings.
- Sharpen Blades: clean cuts reduce stress and disease susceptibility.
- Watering: water deep, infrequently and in the morning to encourage healthy roots and reduces stress.
- Aeration and Over-seeding: alleviate compaction, enhance seed-to-soil contact, and improve air/water movement.

When these practices align with soil-focused products and goals, improvements in turf quality become visible and sustainable year after year.

PEST SPOTLIGHT

Invasive Jumping Worms: A Hidden Threat to Turf Health

Across the Northeast, turf professionals are facing an emerging pest: invasive jumping worms. Unlike beneficial earthworms, these invaders feed aggressively in the topsoil where roots and biology are most active, undermining soil structure and turf performance.

What Makes Them Problematic

- Jumping worms live in the upper soil layers and consume organic matter rapidly, preventing healthy soil aggregate formation.
- Their castings leave soil granular and unstable, impairing water retention and root growth.
- Turf affected by jumping worms often drains too quickly, wilts sooner in heat, and demands more irrigation and maintenance.
- These worms spread quietly through mulch, compost, soil, and equipment, making early detection and prevention critical.

What You Can Do

- Inspect materials like nursery stock and compost before use.
- Clean tools, mower decks, and shoes between sites to avoid transporting cocoons.
- Promote soil resilience with steady organic matter inputs and cultural practices that support deep roots and biological activity.

Read our [entire blog](#) for detailed signs and management tips.

WINTER TURF TIPS

1. Note snow piles

You can expect compaction where snow has been piled over the winter. These areas may require some repair.

2. Avoid Overusing Ice Melt

During snow events, be mindful when using salt-based products. Salt is not good for your turf, pets, or our waterways. Whenever possible:

- Shovel or snow blow early to keep walkways and driveways clear.
- Allow sunlight to naturally melt remaining snow and ice.

If ice melt is necessary, choose a salt-free product. Then, plan to incorporate a calcium product like gypsum in the spring to help reduce the impact of salt along walkways and driveways.

3. Maintain Your Equipment

Don't wait until spring to prepare your equipment for the season ahead. Use the winter months to:

- Add fuel stabilizers to gas tanks.
- Replace fuel filters.
- Sharpen mower blades and purchase additional sets so sharp blades are always ready.
- Add string trimmer line.
- Take stock of parts and product inventory.
- Stock up on soil testing supplies — and reach out if you need more.

4. Business Development

Winter is also a great time to focus on growing your Organic Turf Care business. PJC offers a wide range of Support Services to help landscapers build and maintain profitable organic turf programs. With more than 20 years of practical, field-tested experience, we're ready to support your success.

HONORING DR. ELAINE INGHAM

IN THE
NEWS



Image Source: soilfoodweb.com

Dr. Elaine Ruth Ingham, a pioneering soil microbiologist, passed away on February 17, 2026 at age 73. She was best known for developing the Soil Food Web concept. The Soil Food Web is a framework that reveals the important role of microorganisms in building resilient, sustainable soils.

Her research and advocacy helped farmers, landscapers, and scientists worldwide focus on soil biology rather than chemical inputs to improve plant health and ecosystem function. Her emphasis on nurturing the life within soil is critical, and Dr. Ingham's legacy will continue to guide how people care for the earth, from the soil up.

WHY ORGANIC TURF CARE PROGRAMS MATTER



Homeowners today increasingly ask for safer, transparent, and environmentally responsible options for their lawns, athletic fields, and parks. Organic turf care responds to that demand by reducing synthetic inputs, protecting water quality, and creating landscapes that are safe for kids, pets, and pollinators. For landscapers, adding an organic turf care division isn't just a "nice to have", it's a strategic business move.

An organic program:

- Aligns with growing homeowner values
- Positions your business as forward-thinking
- Supports premium pricing and recurring work
- Deepens client trust and long-term loyalty

PJC helps you build, launch, and grow these programs with premium products, expert support, soil test interpretation, pricing strategy, and seasonal execution plans.

Whether you're dipping your toe in or ready for full implementation, our programs give you a clear path forward.



Grow with PJC in 2026

Ready to get started? Call 978-432-1019 or email info@pjcorganic.com.

HAPPENINGS

Organic Landscape Management for Colleges & Universities

March 3, 2026: 6 Week Course

Re:wild Your Campus and AASHE is working with colleges & universities to transition to organic, pesticide-free landcare. Participants will learn practical strategies to improve soil health, phase out synthetics, and create campus-specific Organic Landcare Plans while connecting with a network of sustainability leaders.

LEARN MORE



re:wild
your campus



New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation

Conference & Show

March 3rd - 5th
Providence, RI



LEARN MORE



Landscaping for Water Quality

March 25-26 | Greenland, NH

Explore and practice designing attractive, ecologically functional landscapes that protect lakes, rivers, streams, and bays; applying real-world strategies to reduce runoff and enhance water quality.

LEARN MORE



Associations' Event Calendars

There's always more to explore!

CGKA →

ELA →

MALP →

MELNA →

MNLA →

NEPA →

NHLA →

NOFA →

