

# ORGANIC PRACTICES

We have almost 100 acres of certified organic fruit that we grow. We started with seven acres of grapes about nine years ago and we have not looked back. We've always been on the verge of organic and now we've finally stepped up to the challenge completely. We've adapted a wide variety of techniques to keep your fruit at the highest quality without sacrificing any flavor or



compromising your health. Fruit should be healthy, not a source of concern. We've worked very hard to bring you fruit you can count on to keep you and your loved ones healthy and happy. Most of our apples and grapes are fully certified organic under the CCOF (California Certified Organic Farmer). We invite you to take the journey with us and start participating in a life of health and fulfillment.

## HOW DO YOU DO IT?

Smit Farms is a small, family run orchard that is cared for by the people who own it and depend on it. Therefore, the Smits have a deep interest in producing the highest quality produce in order to satisfy and preserve their customer base while also thinking of the land's future. Large-scale farms deplete the topsoil, fill the land with chemicals and pump out mediocre produce. The Smits are planting complimentary crops that replenish the soil and adapting new pest control techniques that don't require chemicals. With nearly 100 acres of organically grown produce certified and in transition, we are one of the bigger organic farms around, but still nowhere near the size of a large commercial

farm. Our small size allows us to give the attention and thought required to run a self-renewing farm that will not hurt the environment in the long run.

## NO REALLY, HOW DO YOU DO IT?

First and foremost, we use 100% natural well water to make sure our crops get the purest hydration possible. To control pests there are a ton of alternatives to pesticide. We utilize pheromone traps (an I.P.M. technique) that attract certain moths as well as noise emitters that discourage other insects from lingering. Owl boxes and Eucalyptus trees attract owls that hunt the rodents that can damage tree roots and we hang strips of foil in our trees to reflect the bright sunlight and keep away birds that may feast on our fruit during the day. For now, a weed-eater and our bare hands are all we have to protect us from the weeds, but we are looking into a cutting edge technique that uses



hot foam to scald the weeds at their roots without damaging the trees. And for fertilizer we use a combination of plants that replenish the soil and an organic sea kelp solution that provides the plants with nutrients. All it takes is a little creativity and a lot of dedication and you can grow anything organically. After all, everything used to be organic!

## WHAT IS AN I.P.M.?

I.P.M. stands for integrated pest management. These are recently developed techniques that seek to control agricultural pests while preserving human health, sparing untargeted organisms and leaving the environment unharmed. Methods such as pheromone traps and insect warfare have proven effective in replacing traditional

pesticides and some are showing miraculous results. Many farms have shown an overall reduction of pesticide use by 72%. This is good news for both organic and conventional farms. Now the relatively unprotected organic farmer who suffered crop loss due to pests can defend his crops while still maintaining the organic status and quality of the produce. These techniques that we have adopted are making our transition into organic farming more smooth and productive than we could have imagined.

## HOW DID YOU GET CERTIFIED AND WHY SHOULD WE TRUST IT?



The California Certified Organic Farmers, or CCOF, certified us. They are the premier organization for organic certification and have been doing it longer than any other group. Certification is an application process that is then followed up by ongoing onsite inspections by people who are trained to determine whether or not a farm is practicing organic farming. They go to the farm so you don't have to. Their logo gives you the assurance you require that the produce you are purchasing was

indeed grown in a manner that accords to the standards of organics. Briefly, that means that no genetic engineering or irradiation was used, no sewage was used for fertilizer and there were no growth hormones or antibiotics given to organic livestock. Also, only natural substances, no man-made chemicals, were applied at any time during or after growth. There are a slew of other details, but these are the major points.