

Organic Farming

ESL Reading Worksheet — Level F | tahricteaches.com

Organic farming represents a revolutionary approach to agriculture that prioritizes **environmental** health and **sustainability**. Unlike conventional farming methods, organic farmers completely avoid synthetic **pesticides**, **fertilizers**, and other artificial **chemicals** that can be **harmful** to both human health and the ecosystem.



The philosophy behind organic farming centers on working with **natural** processes rather than against them. Organic farmers rely on traditional methods such as crop rotation, composting, and biological pest control. They use beneficial insects to control **harmful** pests instead of spraying dangerous **chemicals**. This approach helps **protect** the soil's natural fertility and maintains biodiversity on the farm.

Soil health forms the foundation of successful organic farming. Organic farmers build rich, fertile soil through composting organic matter, using cover crops, and avoiding synthetic **fertilizers**. This creates a living ecosystem in the soil that supports plant growth naturally. Healthy soil also helps prevent erosion and water **pollution**, making organic farms more **sustainable** in the long term.

The benefits of organic farming extend far beyond the farm itself. Organic practices help preserve water quality by preventing **harmful chemicals** from entering groundwater and rivers. They also support wildlife habitats and promote biodiversity. Many studies suggest that organic foods contain higher levels of certain nutrients and antioxidants compared to conventionally grown produce.

Consumer demand for organic products has grown dramatically in recent years as people become more aware of **environmental** issues and health concerns. While organic farming typically requires more labor and produces lower yields initially, it offers long-term benefits for farmers, consumers, and the planet. As we face climate change and **environmental** degradation, organic farming provides a path toward more **sustainable** and responsible agriculture that can **protect** our planet for future generations.

A. Vocabulary

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|-------------------------|--|
| 1. organic _____ | a. existing in nature; not made by people |
| 2. environment _____ | b. substance added to soil to help plants grow better |
| 3. sustainability _____ | c. chemicals used to kill insects that damage crops |
| 4. pesticides _____ | d. to keep safe from harm or danger |
| 5. fertilizers _____ | e. grown without using artificial chemicals |
| 6. chemicals _____ | f. harmful substances that damage the environment |
| 7. harmful _____ | g. the natural world around us including air, water, and land |
| 8. natural _____ | h. able to continue for a long time without damaging the environment |
| 9. protect _____ | i. a substance made in a laboratory, often used to kill pests |
| 10. pollution _____ | j. able to cause damage or injury |

B. True or False

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|--|---|--|
| 1. Organic farmers use synthetic pesticides to control pests. — | 2. Organic farming prioritizes environmental health and sustainability. — | 3. Composting helps build rich, fertile soil naturally. — |
| 4. Organic farming typically produces higher yields initially. — | 5. Organic practices help preserve water quality. — | 6. Synthetic fertilizers are essential for organic farming. — |
| 7. Consumer demand for organic products has grown in recent years. — | 8. Organic farming offers no benefits for wildlife habitats. — | 9. Organic foods may contain higher levels of certain nutrients. — |

C. Fill in the Blanks

Word Bank: organic, chemicals, environment, protect, sustainable

- _____ farming avoids using artificial pesticides and fertilizers.
- Synthetic _____ can be harmful to both human health and the ecosystem.
- Organic practices help _____ water quality and prevent pollution.
- This farming method supports the _____ by promoting biodiversity.
- Organic agriculture provides a path toward more _____ farming practices.

D. Comprehension Questions

- How does organic farming differ from conventional farming methods?
- What natural methods do organic farmers use instead of chemical pesticides?
- Why is soil health so important in organic farming?
- What environmental benefits does organic farming provide?
- What challenges and advantages does organic farming present for farmers?

E. Discussion Questions

- Should governments provide incentives to encourage more organic farming? Why or why not?
 - Is the higher cost of organic food justified by its benefits? Explain your reasoning.
 - How might organic farming help address climate change and environmental problems?
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Answer Key

A. Vocabulary: 1-e, 2-g, 3-h, 4-c, 5-b, 6-i, 7-j, 8-a, 9-d, 10-f

B. True/False: 1-F, 2-T, 3-T, 4-F, 5-T, 6-F, 7-T, 8-F, 9-T

C. Fill Blanks: 1-Organic, 2-chemicals, 3-protect, 4-environment, 5-sustainable

D. Comprehension: 1. Organic farming avoids synthetic pesticides, fertilizers, and chemicals; 2. Crop rotation, composting, beneficial insects for pest control; 3. Healthy soil supports plant growth naturally and prevents erosion; 4. Preserves water quality, supports wildlife, promotes biodiversity; 5. Requires more labor and lower initial yields but offers long-term benefits

