

CASE STUDY - VOLKER "BLUEY" STOLDT

Property Name: Organic AG

Location: Middle Point

Annual Rainfall: 2.6 m check

Agro Climatic Region : Tropical

Property Size : 70 acres 45 acres farmed

Elevation: 1m

Enterprise Type:
Horticulture

Soils: Red Sandy loam

Organic
Ag

Organic AG was formed in 2017 by Bluey Stoldt and Mike Scott and is unique in the Northern Territory in they have chosen to focus their efforts on sustainability and environmental farming practices that build soil health.

Located near Fogg Dam one of the most biodiverse areas in the world, the farm's unique location provides year-round growing conditions, allowing it to produce a wide range of fruits and vegetables.

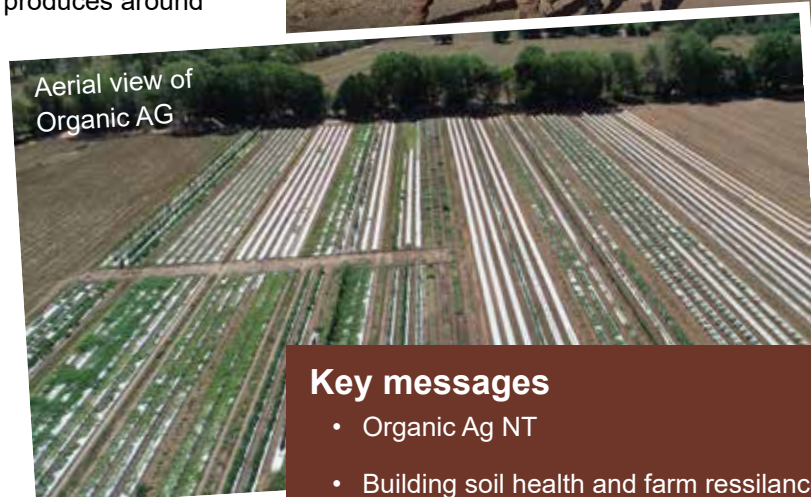
The Northern Territory is an unforgiving place, and it takes more than a prime location to grow outstanding crops in its highly variable climate. You need great farmer to manage the land and work with nature.

Organic AG fulfils a need for supplying organic produce "farm to plate" in the NT. Organic AG produces around twenty different crops including eggplant, zucchini, cucumber, pumpkins, watermelon, snake bean, corn, Asian veg, basil, coriander, mint, parsley, dill, sweet potatoe, aby leaf, rocket and mustard.

One of the key aspects of Organic AG's farming philosophy is a focus on soil health. Soil health is essential for plant growth and for the long-term sustainability of the farm. Healthy soil provides a hospitable environment for microorganisms that help plants grow. It also provides a buffer against disease which is critical in an organic farming setting where conventional pesticides and fungicides can't be used.



Steph,
Bluey and
Max



Aerial view of
Organic AG

Key messages

- Organic Ag NT
- Building soil health and farm ressilance
- No-Till farming
- Cover cropping
- Composting

For more information:

☎ 08 8942 8300

@ info@territorynrm.org.au

🌐 www.territorynrm.org.au

CASE STUDY - VOLKER "BLUEY" STOLDT

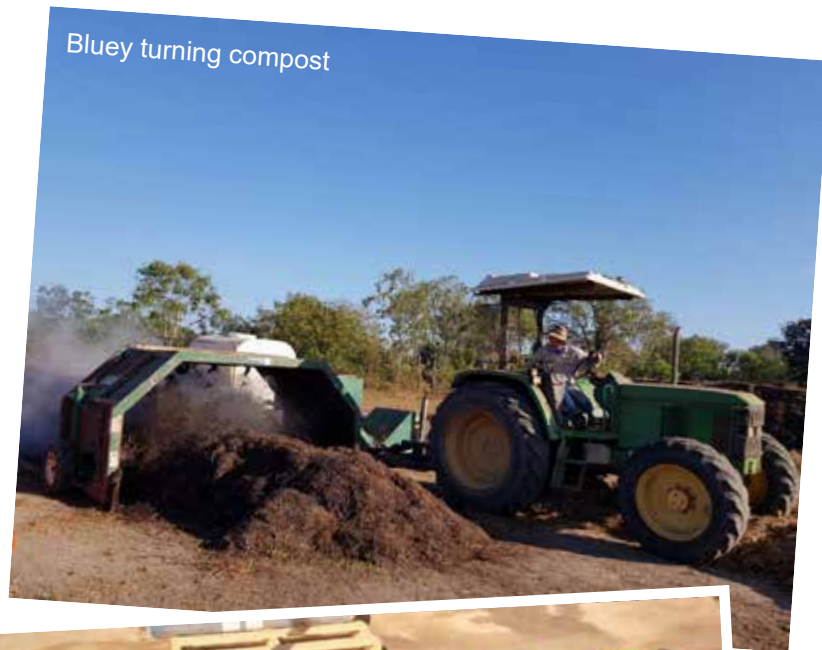
To ensure soil health Organic AG uses a range of techniques including No-till farming, cover crops and composting to build their soil health.

No-till farming involves leaving the soil uncultivated. At planting time Organic AG uses large tarps to kill weeds (tarps deprive plants of light, and thus kill them without having to use herbicides) and then sow directly in the stubble of the previous crop or cover crop. No-till farming has many benefits but of particular interest to Organic AG is that it preserves soil structure and enables the building of soil organic matter and soil health.

Cover crops are an extremely important aspect of Organic AG's farming system as they provide several key soil health functions. Firstly by planting various species of legumes and grasses as cover crops, Organic AG is able to feed their soil and build nitrogen and organic matter. Secondly, because Organic AG is using No-till planting, compaction can be an issue. By planting cover crops Bluey is able to mitigate compaction issues by creating soil structure. He is also protecting his soil against erosion and helping with water conservation.

Composting and the production of bio-fertiliser is perhaps where Bluey has made the most significant breakthroughs. Bluey through years of trial and error has devolved a method of producing high-grade composting and Biofert in the NT. He is then able to use this waste as a key ingredient in Organic AG's fertiliser regime. The improvements of using compost over synthetic fertiliser are well documented. Compost is alive and full of microbial activity and the minerals necessary for plant growth, it can improve soil structure texture and fertility. Synthetic fertiliser while it does provide plants with a quick hit of nutrients is harsh to soils and can lead to a reduction in soil quality over time.

Organic AG is one of the properties that is taking sustainable farming to the next level in the Northern Territory. Since 2017 Organic AG has been able to increase their soil organic matter by more than 70% and they have adopted production methods that promote and build soil health. They have chosen to grow challenging crops, in some of the most challenging environmental and market conditions in Australia, and to really test themselves, they are doing it organically. And despite their current Teething issues, it behoves individuals to keep a watchful eye on this space for it may yet yield promising results.



Bluey turning compost



Pre-grown seedlings ready for planting



Checking the temperature of the compost is critical to ensure a first-class product

For more information:

☎ 08 8942 8300

@ info@territorynrm.org.au

🌐 www.territorynrm.org.au