

OB1 OB1 essentials

[CLOSE THIS WINDOW TO RETURN TO THE OBI OBI ESSENTIALS WEBSITE](#)

February 2012 Bulletin

It is hard to believe that this is the last month of summer. A summer that has been both mild and kind to this farm in the Obi Obi Valley. There was a week where the humidity was hard to manage and since the New Year, the cloudy skies have made solar drying a challenge. However my memory of this season will be one of balminess. This was highlighted the other night with a flurry of fireflies joining us on the verandah, a truly wonderful addition to an eve.



What does the word, organic mean to Obi Obi Essentials?

As the producer of high quality olive oil and a collection of green and olive leaf teas, all of supreme value, I put great importance on the labelling that I use.

The word, organic has evolved to mean something very different to its original interpretation and, in the western world enables a growing number of people to feel more privileged and empowered by having the choice to buy organic. The word has become very emotive and at times contentious which inevitably leads to anger and confusion. Instead of primary producers embracing methods that could improve both farm inputs and outputs, there is an increasing divide between two beliefs.

The Johnson farm in the Obi Obi Valley has been under organic management for many years. However like a lot of other producers, not everything is easy. We at Obi Obi Essentials place a strong emphasis on the use of mulch. This is for increased soil nutrition and balance as well as water conservation and weed reduction. There is no organic mulch grown in our local area and of course anything further away is too expensive and against our philosophy of working with other local producers.

The usual solution is to turn mulch into compost. However this is not so easy when you are talking about hundreds of bales of grass. Nor is it easy when there is already a very high physical input by all those involved at our farm.

The result to this ongoing dilemma is that Obi Obi Essentials will not be certified organic any time soon. However our practices on farm are always to ensure that our soil is in the best condition it can be and as a consequence everything produced on the farm is of the highest standard, organic in fact!

From our place to yours,

Alexina.