

Organic Pathway Guide: 3 Year Transition Plan

A 36 month plan for land that was farmed with prohibited substances. Land must go 36 months without them before its crops can be certified organic. This plan uses that time well, so you are ready the day your land qualifies.

Year 1: Start the transition (months 1 to 12)

Goal: stop prohibited inputs, build your soil, start your records, and draft your OSP.

When	What to do	What you should have
Months 1 to 6	Review your land and inputs, stop all prohibited inputs, test your soil, start your logs	A transition plan, a soil plan, and your first logs
Months 7 to 12	Use organic practices across the farm, check yourself, draft your OSP	An OSP draft, a pest plan, and a biodiversity plan

Check: ☐ Prohibited inputs stopped ☐ Approved inputs only ☐ Logs in use ☐ Soil plan in place

Year 2: Farm fully organic (months 13 to 24)

Goal: run the whole farm organically, keep clean records, and get ready to apply.

When	What to do	What you should have
Months 13 to 18	Check your own compliance, update your OSP, improve biodiversity and pest control	A self check, an updated OSP
Months 19 to 24	Confirm you are ready, finish your records, choose a certifier, plan your markets	A readiness check and a short market plan

Check: ☐ Self checks done ☐ Records complete ☐ Certifier chosen ☐ Market plan started

Year 3: Apply and get certified (months 25 to 36)

Goal: apply, pass inspection, and set up for yearly renewal.

When	What to do	What you should have
Months 25 to 30	Submit your application, prepare for inspection, have your inspection, answer feedback	Application, inspection, and a fix list if needed

Months 31 to 36 Get certified, start selling as organic, plan your renewal

Your certificate, a sales plan, a renewal calendar

Check: ☐ Application sent ☐ Inspection passed ☐ Sales plan ready ☐ Renewal plan ready

Good to know: During transition you cannot sell or label your crops as organic. Keep every receipt and log from day one, because your certifier will ask for proof of the full 36 months.

Free from Kona Organic, an organic certification consulting company working with farms and food businesses anywhere in the world. Want help with any of this? **Book a free 15 minute call.** This guide is general information, not legal advice. Your certifier makes all certification decisions.