

# The Casual Gardener

Gardening and Greening Tips brought to you by Shawna Coronado

TUESDAY, JULY 27, 2010

## What I Did With Organic Mechanics Soil This Season – A Review



When I met Mark Highland, Founder and President of [Organic Mechanics Soil](#), my first thought was how impressed I was for the passion he has for his product. His concern over the environment and how his clients connect with the environment drives his corporate vision.

All Organic Mechanics Soil trucks and manufacturing equipment run on bio-diesel. They use recycled pallets for shipping and recycle the plastic received with raw ingredients – a huge positive step towards reducing the corporate footprint. More importantly, the product Marks team creates is all natural, all organic, peat-free, filled with love and abundant worm castings – the perfect potting soil in my opinion.

Mark agreed to ship soil out to me in exchange for my discussing and showing how I used it. What surprised me was ALL I used the product for:

1. Made it into a seed starting solution for my seedlings
2. Potted all my container gardens with it including the recycled wicker chair container in the top photo to the right
3. Loosened the heavy clay soil which was dug out of the 500 gallon rain cistern hole in my front lawn by digging the [Organic Mechanics Soil](#) in with the clay. Then created a walled garden in my back yard utilizing the soil



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### ABOUT SHAWNA

Shawna Lee Coronado is an author, locally syndicated newspaper columnist, health, and greening expert focused on teaching and living a green lifestyle.

4. Mixed with rotted manure and [Organic Mechanics Worm Castings](#) to use as an all natural fertilizer in the front lawn vegetable garden
5. Filled spaces between my flagstone with the soil where I am trying to get moss to grow
6. Added it to a low spot in the garden to raise it up and make it tendable
7. Used it as a layer in my compost bins
8. Made compost tea in buckets using the soil - then fertilized my plants with it
9. Laid a 3" layer down as a mulch over weeds in the behind-the-fence community garden
10. Used it as a soil amendment in the new perennial beds surrounding the rain water cistern in the front lawn



And so – what is my opinion of the soil after having used it all season? My official review is - -

::drumroll please::

I love it!

Proof is in the “after” photo to the right which shows the recycled wicker loveseat as a container garden in late July. No fertilizers, organic or non-organic, were added to this particular container garden – only [Organic Mechanics Soil](#) and rain water.

Plants included in this container are from [Simply Beautiful Gardens](#) – [Blackie Ipomoea](#), [Zinnia Zahara Yellow](#), and the [Wave Petunia](#). As you can see, the Blackie Ipomoea dominated this part-shade spot and loves the conditions. While the Zinnia and Petunia survived just fine, the sweet potato vine is definitely loving this spot the most.

- <http://www.thecasualgardener.com>,
- The Green Blog - <http://www.gardeningnude.com>, or
- The Garden Blog - <http://thecasualgardener.blogspot.com>

Products sponsored by the below supporters. I would be using these products whether or not they are sponsored – I have faith in their quality and feel they performed well for the conditions offered - -

- Additional information can be found about [Organic Mechanics Soil](#) on the Organic Mechanics website - [www.organicmechanicsoil.com](http://www.organicmechanicsoil.com).
- Additional information can be found on the Wave Petunia at <http://www.wave-rave.com>.
- Additional information can be found on Simply Beautiful plants at <http://www.simplybeautifulgardens.com>.

Posted by [Shawna Lee Coronado](#)

Labels: [Product Review](#), [Soil](#)

Reactions: [funny \(0\)](#) [interesting \(1\)](#) [cool \(0\)](#)

### 3 comments:



**meemsnyc** said...

Wow, that soil did wonders to that bench plant! Nice. I love companies that are concerned with the environment and urban footprint. And the fact that he uses bio-diesel as fuel for his trucks, truly amazing. A company to definitely support, in my opinion. It's so refreshing to read about companies that make a difference!

July 27, 2010 1:12 PM



**Shawna Lee Coronado** said...

It has been wonderful soil - I love it!

Keep up the good work!

Shawna

August 11, 2010 6:51 AM



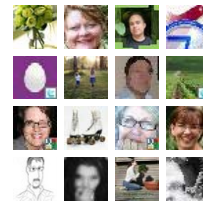
Go to [www.gardeningnude.com](http://www.gardeningnude.com) for more of Shawna's simple living tips.

Visit Shawna's prime website for more information on her books and other media - [www.thecasualgardener.com](http://www.thecasualgardener.com).

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**ShawnaCoronado**

Holy cats! Readers are fighting mad over post comments on [GardenRant.com](http://GardenRant.com).

<http://twurl.nl/05ga6e>. Obama Health Care Plan & A Garden. Yes!

3 hours ago

@mr\_yoo Thanks for the good words on the post. By the way - could your dog look any more adorable in your avatar - simply love it!

3 hours ago

RT @CoronaTools: More #ff :)  
@ShawnaCoronado  
@SeasonalWisdom @sbbg  
@redwhiteandgrew  
@reddirtramblyn  
@Proven\_Winners @PamDigging

3 hours ago