



Organic Seed Alliance

Supporting the ethical development and stewardship of seed.

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Direct technical support services

From basic on-farm production to highly professional breeding programs and viable cooperative businesses, OSA has provided hundreds of farmers and students with the skills to engage in seed work.

We link farmers with researchers and seed professionals in a participatory model for restoring and breeding varieties appropriate for organic production systems and markets. We also work with seed companies, retailers,

Newsletter June 2009

Dear Jadyne,

Organic Seed Alliance is delivering seven workshops this summer and fall in Oregon, Colorado, Wyoming, Washington and British Columbia, Canada. Details and registration information are in this newsletter. As many of you already know, Dr. John Navazio was hired in a joint agreement between OSA and Washington State University last fall and we are pleased to feature him at all of the events you will read about in this newsletter.

In a strong partnership with University Extension, Organic Seed Alliance is leading the information development on organic seed and organic plant breeding for [eOrganic](#). This website is THE online source for USDA organic farming information. We are proud of Micaela Colley's leadership in this effort and the recent publication of the [Organic Seed Resource Guide](#). See story in this newsletter.

Please also note that we have launched a training for trainers program to extend our technical services reach. Seasoned seed people like Joshua Cravens, Lee Gearhardt, Jared Zyskowski, Don Tipping and Frank Morton will be participating in and leading more of our trainings and the delivery of technical services around the country. If you would like to schedule a workshop or advisory services for 2010 with any of our core staff or outreach specialists, please contact Micaela by Oct 1, 2009 at 360-385-7192.

We hope to see you this summer or fall and wish you a good growing season.

Dan Hobbs, Executive Director.

[We appreciate your continued support for our work.](#)

From Matthew Dillon, Director of Advocacy

food businesses, and others in organic seed-related issues. For questions about our services contact micaela at seedalliance.org

[More about our technical services.](#)

The Organic Seed Resource Guide



The guide includes resources and information on a broad range of organic seed topics including organic seed sourcing, seed contracting & production information.

OSA created this guide over the past couple years working with University researchers, Extension, farmers working within the eOrganic Community of Practice and seed professionals.

Organic Seed Alliance staff are members of the eOrganic Community of Practice leading the development of organic seed and plant breeding

SAVE THE DATE ~ Advance notice

OSA Organic Seed Advocacy Symposium

February 25, 2010 ~ La Crosse, Wisconsin

Registration Info: To be announced in August 2009.

Organic Seed Alliance, in partnership with the Organic Farming Conference and the National Organic Coalition, will be hosting a one day working symposium at the 2010 Organic Farming Conference (formerly the Upper Midwest Organic Conference) in La Crosse, WI.

Organic farm and food integrity requires organic seed integrity. There are two distinct yet related issues that must be addressed in order for such integrity to exist. They can be summarized by the headings of Availability and Risks. Organic farming systems currently suffer from a lack of available seed in appropriate quantity and quality. Organic seed systems are at risk from lack of investment (both private and public), consolidation in the seed industry, and contamination from genetically engineered crops.

There are currently many regional and national initiatives, organizations, committees, and individuals working on organic seed issues. Organic Seed Alliance has convened an Organic Seed Working Group made up of representatives from these diverse stakeholders. The group is drafting a State of Organic Seed Report. The Symposium will be an opportunity for the organic community to discuss the Report and create an Organic Seed Action Plan. A draft of the Report will be made available to the public in December of 2009, and all symposium attendees will be asked to read and give feedback on the report as a condition of registration.

The Symposium will be limited to 120 participants, and will seek to have representation from organic farmers, certifying agencies, organic trade (retailers/processors/distributors), non-profits, university researchers and the seed sector. Updates and additional information for this event will be posted on the Organic Seed Alliance web site.

Please contact Matthew at seedalliance.org if you are interested in attending and would like to be placed on a project update mailing list.

Matthew Dillon

Fundamentals of Plant Variety Improvement

June 24 and 25 ~ Williams, Oregon

Learn the basic skills to develop and adapt seed varieties for your organic farm conditions. Organic Plant Breeding Specialist Dr. John

information. Organic farming resources are created within eOrganic and published through [USDA eXtension](#) the national website for farming related research and information.

The Organic Seed Resource Guide is now available online through the eXtension website! <http://www.extension.org/article/18340>

Navazio and seed grower Don Tipping will teach you how to select for reproductive fitness and yield, horizontal resistance to disease, and improved performance under heat, drought, and cold stress.

Workshop details: Wednesday, June 24: 9am-6pm, Thursday, June 25: 9am-4 pm at Seven Seeds Farm, 3220 East Fork Rd, Williams, OR, 97544. Thanks to a grant from the USDA, this course is being offered at a discounted rate of \$50.00 and includes the cost of lunch both days. More about [Seven Seeds Farm](#)

Seeds for Change

July 14-16 ~ Salt Spring Island, Canada.

OSA plant breeder John Navazio and OSA board member Frank Morton are teaching at Foxglove Farm in British Columbia. The workshop will focus on maintaining genetic integrity of seed while improving and adapting crops to your environment and particular cultural practices.

More information and registration for this workshop is found at [Foxglove Farm](#).

Wet seed workshop and field day

August 31 ~ Rocky Ford, Colorado

Organic melon, watermelon, and chile seed production offer viable economic opportunities in the Arkansas Valley of Colorado. Held at the CSU Arkansas Valley Research Center this workshop will cover organic variety selection, organic seed production, and organic seed market opportunities. Come and view organic watermelon, melon, and chile trials, meet organic seed company representatives, and learn about the practices and opportunities of commercially producing organic seed. This field day will include wet seeded crop harvesting demonstrations as well as information on becoming organically certified and engaging in organic seed production contracts.

Workshop details: Monday 9:00-2:00 - Arkansas Valley Research Center <http://www.colostate.edu/depts/avrc/>, 27901 Road 21, Rocky Ford, CO. This is a free workshop. To register, please call Jadyne at 360-385-7192 or email info@seedalliance.org.

Fundamentals of Plant Variety Improvement

September 2 - 3 ~ Longmont, Colorado

Learn the basic skills to develop and adapt seed varieties for your organic farm conditions. Organic Plant Breeding Specialist Dr. John

Navazio and seed grower Rich Pecoraro will teach how to select for reproductive fitness and yield, horizontal resistance to disease, and improved performance under heat, drought, and cold stress. Basic seed saving experience is recommended.

Workshop details: Sept 2nd, 8:00am-5:00pm and Sept 3rd, 8:00am-4:00pm. Thanks to a grant from the USDA, this course is being offered at a discounted rate of \$100 and includes the cost of lunch both days. Pre-Registration is required. This southwest workshop will be held at [Abbondanza Organic Seed and Produce](#). To register, please call Jadyne at 360-385-7192 or email info@seedalliance.org.

Seed production and seed saving

September 4 ~ Laramie, Wyoming

Organic Seed Alliance will teach the basic skills to successfully grow and save seed. Participants will learn important seed growing techniques and considerations including field planning, isolation distances, field selection practices, recommended population sizes, seed harvesting and cleaning techniques, and how to genetically improve seeds for your local climate and growing conditions. No prior experience necessary. Class will cover both garden and farm scale.

Workshop details: September 4th, 10:00 - 3:00, Torrington, Wyoming. Hosted by WY Department of Agriculture Specialty Crops Program. Check back for registration details closer to event date.

Seed production and seed saving.

September 12 ~ Port Townsend, Washington OR

September 26 ~ Port Townsend, Washington

Two fall dates are offered for the OSA Seed Saving 101 class. Each workshop covers the basic skills of growing and saving seed: field planning, isolation distances, field selection techniques, recommended population sizes, seed harvesting and cleaning techniques, and how to genetically improve seeds for our local climate and growing conditions. This workshop is applicable to both farming and gardening scale.

Workshop details: Both classes are 9:00am-3:00pm at WSU Port Hadlock <http://jefferson.wsu.edu/>, 201 W. Patison (on Hwy 19), . Pre-registration required, Cost \$50 includes lunch. Jefferson County farmers may attend this workshop at no fee. To register, please call Jadyne at 360-385-7192 or email info@seedalliance.org.

Plant Variety Improvement fundamentals

October 9 & 10 ~ Port Townsend, Washington

Learn the basic skills to develop and adapt seed varieties for your organic farm conditions at the Fundamentals of Organic Plant Variety Improvement workshop hosted by the Organic Seed Alliance. Organic Plant Breeding Specialist Dr. John Navazio and seed expert Micaela Colley will teach you how to select for reproductive fitness and yield, horizontal resistance to disease, and improved performance under heat, drought, and cold stress. Basic seed growing experience is recommended.

Workshop details: Oct 9th 8:00am-5:00pm and Oct 10th 9:00am to 4:00pm at WSU Port Hadlock <http://jefferson.wsu.edu/>, 201 W. Patison (on Hwy 19), Pre-registration required. Jefferson County farmers may attend this workshop at no fee. Cost \$150. To register, please call Jadyne at 360-385-7192 or email info@seedalliance.org.

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