

Education for Farmers, by Farmers

FARMWALK2017



ORGANIC SEED  
PRODUCTION

Organic Seed Alliance  
& Essential Blooms  
Chimacum, WA

Monday, October 2nd, 2017

presented collaboratively by:



Food Systems  
WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

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# ABOUT ORGANIC SEED ALLIANCE...

Organic Seed Alliance is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that advances ethical seed solutions to meet food and farming needs in a changing world. They envision organic seed systems that are democratic and just, support human and environmental health, and deliver genetically diverse and regionally adapted seed to farmers everywhere.

Each year OSA educates thousands of farmers and other agricultural community members, conducts professional organic plant breeding and seed production research, and advocates for national policies that strengthen organic seed systems. Programming includes training for farmers teaching how to grow seed organically and conducting numerous variety trials to identify which organically available varieties work best for farmers in their regions and to identify the gaps in qualities necessary for optimum organic production. OSA is also building partnerships between farmers, public plant breeders, to breed new varieties to better serve organic farmers, and organic seed industry to help bring new organically bred varieties to market.

In addition our advocacy program focuses on policies that foster the growth of organic seed and protect organic seed integrity. The two main issues our advocacy focuses on is threats of contamination in seed (integrity issue for organics), and impacts of consolidation and overly restrictive IP on access to genetic resources.



OSA's mission is to advance ethical seed solutions to meet food and farming needs in a changing world.

Connect Online:

<https://seedalliance.org>

# ABOUT ESSENTIAL BLOOMS...

Essential Blooms is a wholesale organic, floral venture based in Port Townsend, Washington on the wild, green north Olympic Peninsula of Washington. They have organic field locations in several sites around east Jefferson County, including a large planting site and storing and arranging facilities adjacent to the Finnriver Orchard and Cider Garden.

Essential Blooms grew out of an idea to create beauty and in-site fun, consisting of a small collaborative crew of flower growers with the personal goals to: Have fun; Continue to learn new things every year; Enrich our lives both financially and aesthetically; Enhance our families chosen lifestyle; Make a difference in our community; and promote the health of the land where we work.



Together they work to provide not only seeds to our wholesale partners but also “stories” that support their marketing efforts. Our story is grounded in our love of flowers and our commitment to hard work. We seek to consistently surprise and delight with our products and our services.

In addition to our wholesale flower seed ventures we offer bulk cut flowers and arrangements to local community members and event spaces.

Connect Online:

<http://essential-blooms.com>



# ONLINE RESOURCES...

## **Organic Seed Production**

WSDA Regulations for Selling Seed

<https://agr.wa.gov/Marketing/SmallFarm/greenbook/39.aspx>

WSU Case Study - Production of Brassica Seed Crops in Washington

<http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/EM062E/EM062E.pdf>

WSU Common Bacterial Blights and Halow Blight Important to Bean Crops

<http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/FS038E/FS038E.pdf>

OSA On-Farm Variety trials - A Guide for Organic Herb, Vegetable, and Flower Producers

<https://seedalliance.org/publications/on-farm-variety-trials-a-guide-for-organic-vegetable-herb-and-flower-producers/>

OSA Weather-related Risk Reduction Guidelines for Dry-seeded Speciality Seed Crops

<https://seedalliance.org/publications/weather-related-risk-reduction-guidelines-dry-seeded-specialty-seed-crops/>

OSA Principles and Practices of Organic Spinach Seed Production in the Pacific Northwest

<https://seedalliance.org/publications/principles-practices-organic-spinach-seed-production-pacific-northwest/>

<https://seedalliance.org/all-publications/>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a\\_gNZ8n4McM&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a_gNZ8n4McM&feature=youtu.be)

<https://pubs.wsu.edu/>

## **Cut Flower Production**

WSU Cut Flowers - Basic Production and Marketing

<http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/eb1982/eb1982.pdf>

## **Washington State Organic Certification Processes**

WSDA Organic Program: Interested in Organic Certification?

A webpage dedicated to resources for new applicants beginning the certification process. Available at:

<https://agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/Organic/NewOrg.aspx>

WSDA Organic Program's Organic Certification Fee Calculator. Estimate certification costs, determine the forms needed for certification, and evaluate other requirements and licenses needed for your business. Available at:

<https://agr.wa.gov/foodanimal/organic/orgcertfecalc.aspx>

National Organic Program Website: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/about-ams/programs-offices/national-organic-program>

National Organic Program Guide to Organic Certification:

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/publications/content/guide-organic-certification>

Interactive video on the certification steps: "The Road to Organic Certification"

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/reports/road-organic-certification>

National Organic Program Factsheet: Making the Transition to Organic Production and Handling:

<https://agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/Organic/NewOrg.aspx>

NCAT-ATTRA: Hoja de Datos: Transición al Manejo Orgánico de Huertos Frutales:

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/FINAL%20Transicion%20al%20Manejo%20Organico%20de%20Huertos%20Frutales.pdf>



# Food Systems

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

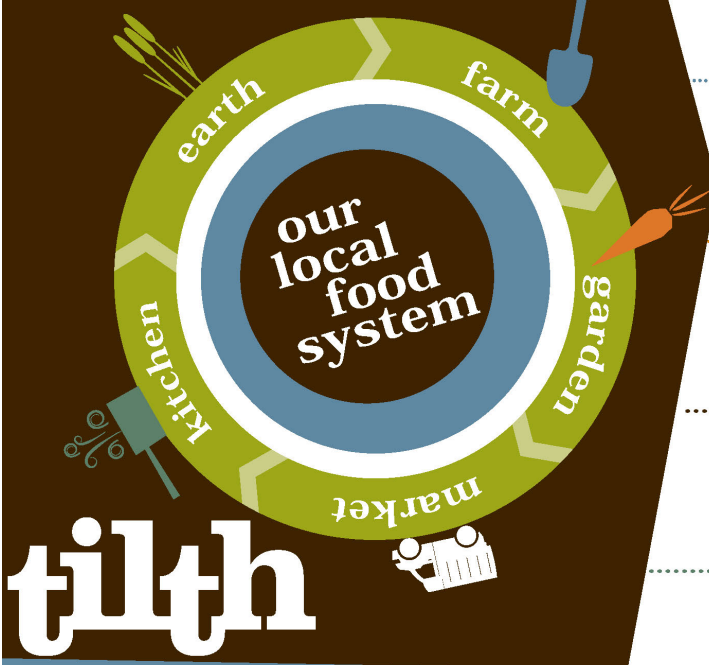


Supporting thriving Washington farms, ecosystems, and food economies to provide communities with equitable access to sustainably produced and healthy foods.



Our food systems work is guided by an interdisciplinary team of WSU Faculty, Staff, and critical non-WSU partners. Team members collaborate on initiatives that promote research, implement change, and provide unparalleled educational opportunities for communities, graduates and undergraduates. All of this work is supported through the Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources (CSANR) which convenes extension, research, and academics. Find us at [foodsystems.wsu.edu](http://foodsystems.wsu.edu)

working together to build an equitable and sustainable local food future for all



## earth

A healthy environment is the foundation for growing healthy food. We enable community members to build healthy soil, restore the environment, manage pests naturally, protect water quality and teach others.

soil and water stewardship training | Garden Hotline Master Composter / Soil Builder training | restoration projects

## farm

All farmers need support to thrive. We provide Washington's farming community with peer-to-peer education, connect them with the land they need and support their business enterprises.

farmer-to-farmer education | farm business incubator FarmLink | Tilth Conference | Tilth Producers Quarterly

## garden

People who know how to grow food have better health, a stronger connection to the land and more resilience. We teach people of all ages and incomes to grow food.

adult classes | school tours | mobile classroom children's camps | community learning gardens teacher workshops | Tilth Alliance Youth Garden Works

## market

Farmers need secure markets, and everyone has a right to food that is good for them and for the environment. We help consumers find local products and get produce into their hands through farmers' markets, community supported agriculture (CSA) and subsidized access for low-income families.

Farm Guide | CSA | Good Food Bags

## kitchen

People who know how to cook and understand nutrition are empowered to eat well every day. We share cooking skills, nutrition knowledge and food traditions through classes, events and youth programs.

community dinners | youth cooking clubs | senior meals

# tilth

ALLIANCE

[tilthalliance.org](http://tilthalliance.org)