



Organic Intensives

Thursday, March 9, 2017

We invite you to join us on Thursday, March 9th for a one-day in-depth learning experience. Organic Intensives are an opportunity to acquire practical, detailed information over the course of a day with fellow Michigan farmers and gardeners. For 2017 we have invited individuals who are recognized experts and educators in one of three topic areas:

The Changing Face of Organic Field Crop Marketing

Large scale organic grain and bean crops are in high demand and Michigan's organic field crop farmers are responsible for managing a large part of Michigan's organic cropland. Keeping these farms profitable includes being aware of shifting organic markets and market expectations. This session is being developed as a follow up to the successful 2016 session that provided organic, transitioning and non-organic grain and bean producers with valuable information about organic production methods. Organic farmers and buyers will share the most up-to-date information with session participants. Thinking about the future of your farm? Please join us!

Organic Weed, Insect and Disease Management for the Diversified Vegetable Farm

Successful diversified vegetable production depends in part on having a well-developed organic pest management plan before the start of the growing season. Researchers at MSU and other Midwest institutions have been awarded a grant to develop organic pest management strategies and educational materials for cucurbit crops (cucumber, squash, pumpkin). Participants will benefit from the outcomes of this grant as well as general pest management strategies for the diversified organic vegetable farm, with a focus on small and medium scale systems. This will be a unique opportunity for organic farmers to pick up some of the most recent information available on successful organic pest management techniques from both researchers and practitioners.

Successful Organic Gardening: Growing Nutrient Dense Vegetables in a Changing Climate

Join a consort of skilled, insightful, experienced Michigan growers for a day dedicated to broadening even the most experienced grower's skill-set and stimulating those who aspire to more knowledge. Presentations on soil biology and fertility management, crop planning, scheduling and cultivar selection, strategies for attracting pollinators and beneficial insects, season extension and crop protection methods, water wise irrigation, and working with/teaching others, culminating with a round table open-ended conversation on our passion for gardens and farms. Intensive handouts plus your choice of one of five complete gardening/grower books included with registration.

The event will take place on Thursday, March 9th, at Brody Hall on the MSU campus in East Lansing. The day begins with registration at 8:30 am and sessions end at 5:00 pm. The registration fee includes six hours of learning, lunch, printed materials, and parking (across Harrison Road from Brody Hall). For more detailed information, please visit www.moffa.net/OI-2017.html or if you don't have internet access, give us a call at 248-262-6826.