

PUBLIC SEED INITIATIVES

Seed Networks





**A look at Some Of
The Seed Networks
That Have Already
Organized Around
The Country**



Native Seed S.E.A.R..C.H. Southwest

<http://www.nativeseeds.org>

Native Seeds/SEARCH conserves, distributes and documents the adapted and diverse varieties of agricultural seeds, their wild relatives and the role these seeds play in cultures of the American Southwest and northwest Mexico. We promote the use of these ancient crops and their wild relatives by gathering, safeguarding, and distributing their seeds to farming and gardening communities. We also work to preserve knowledge about their uses.

Canadian Seed Initiative



[Home](#)

[About Seeds of Diversity](#)

[Membership and Order Form](#)

[Library](#)

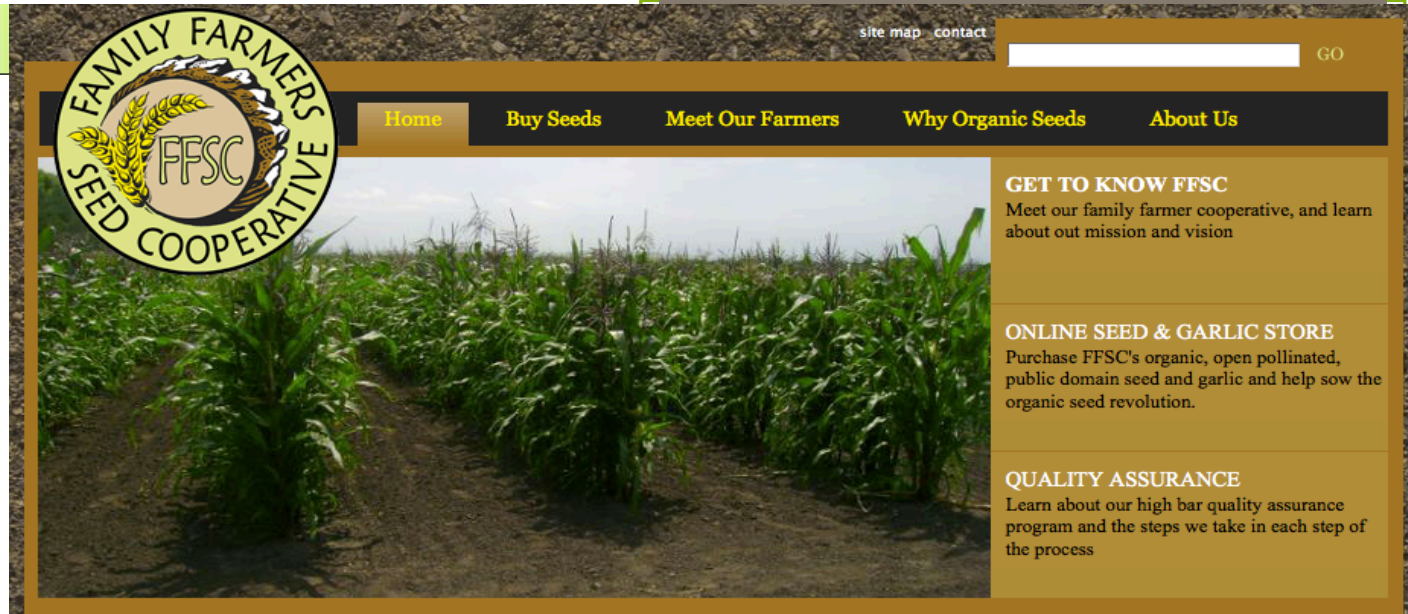
[Projects](#)

[Store](#)

[Events](#)

[Links](#)

- **SEEDS OF DIVERSITY** is a Canadian charitable organization dedicated to the conservation, documentation and use of public-domain, non-hybrid plants of Canadian significance. **Our 1400 members** from coast to coast are gardeners, farmers, teachers, scientists, agricultural historians, researchers and seed vendors. **Together we grow, propagate and distribute over 2900 varieties of vegetables, fruit, grains, flowers and herbs. We are a living gene bank.**



Family Farmers Seed Cooperative is working to provide an alternative seed source for farming operations. FFSC's home offices are located in southern Oregon, and the cooperative, **launched in 2008**, works to engage with "numerous partners to develop, improve and conduct field trials on organic, non-gmo, open pollinated seed, and protect seed sovereignty, family farmers, sustainable agriculture and organic non-gmo seed," according to the organization's web site. **Our membership consists of 14 farms and dozens of crop seeds developed for climate conditions across the country.**

<http://eorganic.info/>



What is eOrganic?

eOrganic is the organic agriculture community of practice with eXtension.

Our mission is to foster a research and outreach community, engage farmers and ag professionals through trainings and publications, and support research and outreach projects.

Projects at eOrganic

[Carrot Improvement for Organic Agriculture](#)
[NOVIC Website](#)
[Organic Reduced Tillage in the Pacific Northwest](#)
[Tools for Transition](#)

Resources



Articles



Webinars



Videos

Ask-an-Expert

Questions?

<http://eorganic.info/novic/>

NORTHERN ORGANIC VEGETABLE IMPROVEMENT COOPERATIVE



[HOME](#) [ABOUT US](#)

Search

NOVIC

[NOVIC home](#) [About](#) [Events](#) [News](#) [Crops](#) [Resources](#) [Variety Trials Database](#)

The Northern Organic Vegetable Improvement Collaborative (NOVIC) brings together researchers and organic farmers in Northern US states to address their seed and plant breeding needs. The collaborative includes researchers and educators from four universities, Organic Seed Alliance, and the USDA. NOVIC is partnering with organic farmers to breed new varieties, identify the best performing existing... [Read more](#)



[About NOVIC and Our Collaborators](#)



[Crops](#)



[Organic Variety Trial Database](#)

[News](#)

[Events](#)

What's new

[Breeding Seeds of Success](#)

[NOVIC Field Day](#)

[Annual Organic Research Openhouse in Freeville, NY](#)

[Seed Saving and Breeding for Organic Farms: The Basics](#)

[American Society of Horticultural Science Annual Conference](#)

Organic Seed Finder Database

Organic Seed Finder, a new database hosted by the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies will serve as a valuable tool by providing reliable organic seed availability information.

The database aims to facilitate the growth and success of the organic seed sector, and support farmer, certifier, and handler decisions for better meeting the national organic seed requirement and serving organic production.

Hudson Valley Seed Library, New York

<http://www.seedlibrary.org>

Grew over past **8 years** from an idea at a small town library in the Hudson Valley region of upstate New York.

Now has blossomed into an **online seed library** focused on the Northeast and a **full seed catalog** for all gardeners.

The Seed Library has its own **seed farm** where open-pollinated seeds are grown, saved, and packed by hand.

There are close to **one thousand seed library members** and thousands more buy our unique Art Packs and heirloom seeds every year.



Art of the Heirloom 2013: Cultural Seed Savers

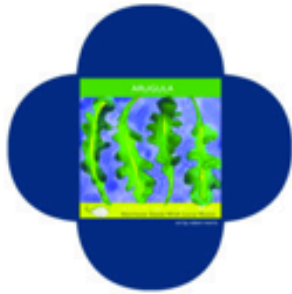
Every year we put together a traveling exhibition of the artworks commissioned for our newest heirloom varieties. Each work, created by a different artist, becomes a unique seed pack that we call Art Packs. The contemporary artwork reflects the modern importance of preserving, developing, and celebrating the diversity of heirloom seeds.

The artwork is an integral part of our commitment to seeds as cultural treasures and the artists are an essential piece of keeping the culture in agriculture.

Traveling Art Exhibit of the Art Packs; The theme of this year's show is;

“Artists as Cultural Seed Savers”
November 4th, 2012 at Unison Arts Center in
New Paltz, NY,

Art Packs



Arugula
Add:



Aunt Molly's Ground
Cherry
Add:



Bachelor Button
Polka Dot Mix **NEW!**
Add:



Balloon Vine **NEW!**
Add:



Basil Bouquet
Add:



Benning's Green
Tint Patty Pan
Squash
Add:



Bloomsdale Spinach
Add:



Borage
Add:



Calendula
Add:



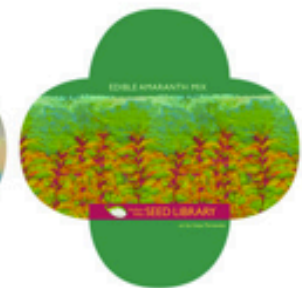
Calico Popcorn
Add:



Cilantro
Add:



Cosmonaut Volkov
Tomato **NEW!**
Add:





Painted Daisy

Add:



Parsley: Gigante d'Italia **NEW!**

Add:

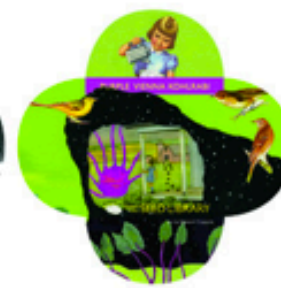


Piracicaba Broccoli
Sold out for 2012 season. Sorry!



Provider Green Bean

Add:



Purple Vienna Kohlrabi **NEW!**

Add:



Ragged Jack Kale

Add:



Rainbow Chard
Sold out for 2012 season. Sorry!



Red Acre Cabbage **NEW!**

Add:



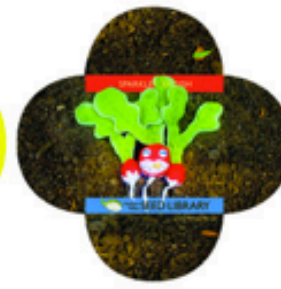
Rosa Bianca Eggplant **NEW!**

Add:



Ruby Queen Beet

Add:



Sparkler Radish

NEW!

Add:

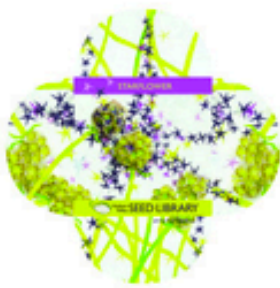


Spider Flower

Add:



Spotted Trout Lettuce



Starflower **NEW!**

Add:



State Fair Zinnia

Add:



Strawflower **NEW!**

Add:

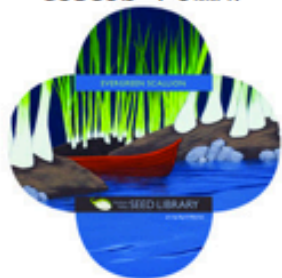


Sugar Baby Watermelon



Summer Savory

NEW!



Evergreen Scallion

NEW!

Add:



Florence Fennel

NEW!

Add:



Fox Cherry Tomato

Add:



Gift Zinnia

Sold out for 2012 season. Sorry!



Goldie Tomato

Add:



Good Bug Blooms

Add:



Green Zebra Tomato

Add:



Jenny Lind Melon

NEW!

Add:



Kaleidoscope Carrots

Add:



Laxton's Progress Shell Pea

NEW!

Add:



Lemon Cucumber

NEW!

Add:



Long Island Cheese Pumpkin

Add:



Love in a Mist

NEW!



Matchbox Pepper



Moon Flower

NEW!



Muncher Cucumber



New England Pie



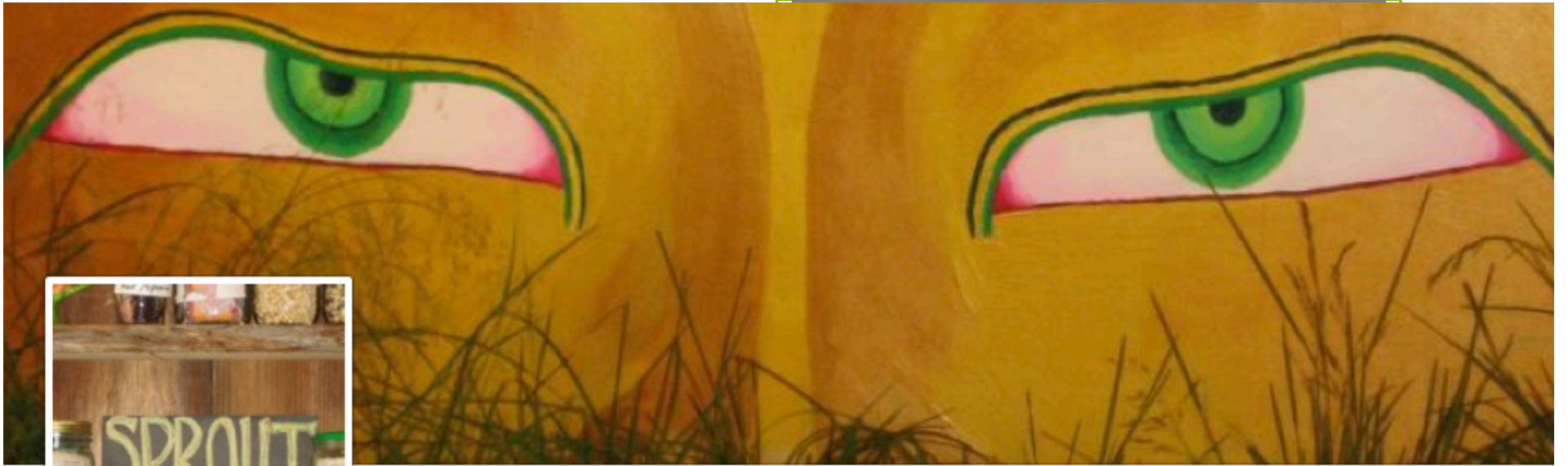
New Yorker Tomato



Velvet Queen
Sunflower



Green Zebra
Tomato



**SPROUT Seed Library~ Seed & Plant
Resource OUTreach**

 Like

Message  ▼

Seed Lending Libraries

Sowing Revolution: Seed Libraries Offer Hope for Freedom of Food

- Occupy the Farm The Gill Tract Land in Berkeley — the last and best piece of farmland in the area.
- The first seed library in Berkeley began in 1999, when seeds from the Gill Tract had to be saved due to the takeover by Novartis of research at the UC Berkeley-owned plot.
- That moment led to a blossoming of seed libraries across the U.S.



Richmond Grows Seed Lending Library

HOME

EN ESPAÑOL

CONTACT

GET INVOLVED!

HOW TO USE LIBRARY

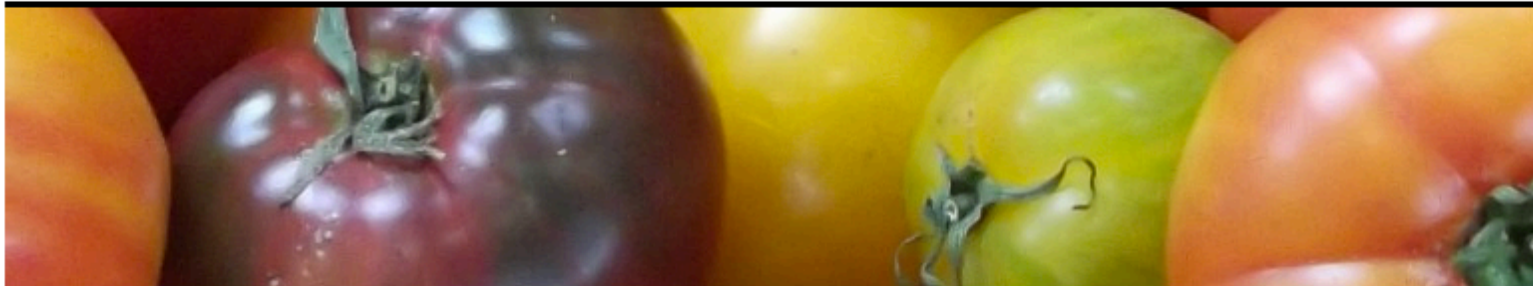
SEED SAVING

CREATE A LIBRARY

COURSES

IN THE NEWS

SEED GARDEN



Seeds Libraries Movement

Have a seed library or interested in starting one? Check out [Seed Libraries](#), a national organization to support existing and emerging seed libraries, and join our social network. We also have a downloadable "seed library toolkit" on the website. **If you have opened a seed library, please take a moment to fill in our [Seed Library Survey](#).** Please "Like" [Seed Libraries](#) on Facebook. There is also a [University Seed Libraries Association](#) on Facebook.



Organized by;
Categories alphabetically and Seed saving level – “Easy” or “difficult”

Welcome to the World of Saving and Sharing Seeds!

Borrowing Seeds

The seeds you borrow from Richmond Grows are lent to you at no financial cost, and they are priceless.

A commitment to growing plants from seeds is a gift to yourself. We hope you learn much, experience the joy of gardening, and enjoy the fruits of your labor.

At harvest time, please take some extra steps to save seeds for others. We ask that a portion of the seeds you save be returned to the seed lending library to keep the library self-sustaining. The more seeds in the library, the more members of our community can experience the pleasures of growing their own food.



Why Save Seeds?

Humans have been saving seeds for over 12,000 years. However, in our culture much of that knowledge has been lost over the last hundred years, along with significant biodiversity. When you grow and save your own seeds, you

- develop seed stock that is well suited to our climate
- save money
- mitigate our dependence on agro-business

When you participate in the seed library, you create a culture of sharing and abundance.



The seed is hope; the flower is joy.
- Author Unknown

Support **Richmond Grows**

Richmond Grows is supported by volunteers and donations. Please contact us at RichmondGrows@gmail.com.

Welcome to The Seed Library!



Richmond Grows

OUR MISSION:
Richmond Grows Seed Lending Library is a free urban seed project committed to increasing the capacity of our community to feed itself wholesome food by means of education that fosters community resilience, self-reliance and a culture of sharing.

Located in the Richmond Public Library
325 Civic Center Plaza
Richmond, CA 94804
www.richmondlibrary.org

Monday - Tuesday 12-8, Wednesday 10-8
Thursday & Saturday 10-5
Friday 12-5, Sunday closed

**Learn more about seed saving at
RichmondGrows.org**

Richmond Grows Seed Lending Library Monthly Work Party Checklist

Materials needed: *Monthly Work Party Checklist, legal-sized envelopes, rag (to wet and seal envelopes), paper cutter, seed library stamp, ink pads, pencil sharpener, laptop computer with the membership list, Dye Plant stamp*

At the work party:

1. Alphabetize seeds in collection
2. Add new seeds to collection – please stamp any dye plants before filing using the “Dye Plant” stamp and the XXX colored ink pad
3. Add additional Membership forms to the orange Membership Binder, as needed – place these forms in the front of the binde
4. Stock the plastic holder with seed saving brochures. These can be found in the “Supplies” drawer
5. Update membership list from the Membership binder:
6. Open up the Excel spreadsheet for membership
7. Get the orange Membership binder
8. Look for member that do not have a check in the upper right-hand corner.
9. As you enter the information, please put a check mark in the upper right-hand corner.
10. Seal legal sized envelopes and cut in half and stamp with seed library stamp
11. Sharpen pencils
12. Check to make sure there are the following:
 - several pencils - extra stamped envelopes
 - Seed Markers richmondgrows@gmail.com
13. Time permitting, process seeds and package. If there is a large volume, make extra envelopes for sister seed libraries and place in the “Donation Sister Seed Lending Library” box located in the glass cabinet.

Sister Seed Lending Libraries

California

[Alameda Free Library \(Green Minds, Green Thumbs\)](#) - The City of Alameda

[Bay Area Seed Interchange Library \(BASIL\)](#) - Berkeley

[SPROUT Seed Library](#) - Bolinas

[Davis Seed Library](#)- UC Davis

[East Palo Alto Public Library](#)- East Palo Alto, in collaboration with [Collective Roots](#)

[Hall Middle School Seed Lending Library](#) - Larkspur

[Seed Library of Los Angeles \(SLOLA\)](#) - Los Angeles

Proyecto Jardin - Boyle Heights, Los Angeles

[Mariposa County Library](#) - Mariposa

[Colonial Heights Seed Library](#), Sacramento Public Library - Sacramento

[UCSC Demeter Seed Saving Project](#) - Santa Cruz

Museum of Art and History run by [Reskilling Expo](#)- Santa Cruz

[Live Oak Public Library](#) - Santa Cruz

[Hayes Valley Farm](#) - San Francisco

[Pocket Seed Lending Library](#) - San Francisco

[San Francisco Public Library, Portrero Hill Branch](#)- San Francisco

Santa Clara Seed Library, Santa Clara Public Library, Saratoga Branch - Saratoga

[West County Community Seed Exchange](#) - Sonoma County

[Seedfolks Seed Library](#)- Oakland

[Cesar Chavez Public Library](#) - Oakland

In process:

Hayward Public Library - Hayward

[Camarillo Public Library](#) - Camarillo

[Wood Library](#) - Canandaigua

Alaska

[Growing Ester's Biodiversity \(John Trigg Ester Library\)](#) - Ester

Arizona

[Native Seeds/SEARCH](#) - Tuscon

[Pima County Public Library](#) - Tuscon, 5 branches!

[Valley Permaculture Alliance Seed Library](#) - Phoenix

Colorado

[Westcliffe Public Library](#) - Westcliffe

[The Farmette](#) - Lyons

[Mancos Public Library](#) - Mancos

Connecticut

[Fairfield Woods Branch Public Library](#) - Fairfield

Florida

[Grow Gainesville](#) - Gainesville

In Process:

George A. Smathers Libraries, University of Florida

Idaho

[East Bonner County Library](#) - Sandpoint

Iowa

[Ely Public Library](#) - Ely

[Barlow Seed Lending Library](#) - Iowa Falls

Illinois

[Chicago Seed Library](#) - Chicago

[Hull House](#) - Chicago

[GEEE](#) - Hyde Park Arts Center, Chicago

In process:

Oak Park Public Library - Oak Park

Kansas

[Delano Witchita Seed Library](#)

Massachusetts

[Concord Seed Lending Library](#) - Concord

[Springfield City Library](#) - Pine Point Branch

Michigan

[Michigan Land Use Institute](#) (seed saving initiative) - Traverse City

New Mexico

[Maclovia Garden](#)

[Seed Broadcast Mobile Seed Library](#) - proposed launch summer 2012

New York

[Broome County Public Library Seed Lending Library](#) - Binghamton

North Carolina

[Sylva Sprouts Seed Lending Library](#)

Oregon

[Portland Seed Library](#) - Portland

Pennsylvania

[Philadelphphia Seed Exchange](#) - Philadelphia

[Jenkintown's Library Community Seed Program](#) - Jenkintown

In Progress

[Pittsburgh Seed and Story Library](#) - Pittsburgh

Vermont

Montpelier High School - Montpelier

Virginia

[Chesterfield Heirloom Seed Exchange](#) - Chesterfield

Shenandoah Seed Library, [Rockbridge Regional Library](#) - Lexington

Washington

[Lopez Island Land Trust](#) - Lopez Island

[Olympia Seed Exchange](#) - Olympia

Europe

Belgium

Mouscron - located in a private residence

England

Women's Environmental Network - Tower Hamlet, London

Slovenia

Urban Furrow - Ptuj, Maribor



On Facebook – a place for University students to gather online and exchange information about the implementation and maintenance of Heirloom seed lending libraries.

EATING IN PUBLIC

[gardens](#)

[weeds](#)

[bins](#)

[seeds](#)

[stores](#)

[apec](#)

[{contribute}](#)

[{about}](#)



Each Seed-Sharing Station is crafted to fit the specifications of each location. Self-standing, wallmounted, bigger, smaller...

SEED-SHARING STATIONS

Overview

We are seeking prospective organizations/entities to adopt seed-sharing-stations, particularly locations with lots of traffic and used by people of diverse populations - e.g. community centers, libraries, churches, coffee shops, senior service centers, etc.

We will provide a Seed-Sharing-Station without charge. They are built individually to fit the specificity of each context and entirely from scrap and/or repurposed wood. Each comes with a stapler, rubber stamp/pad, pencils, a starter kit of recycled envelopes and approximately 50 seed packets.

The station needs no monitoring and is self-explanatory. Anyone is welcome to take seeds and provides a place for planters to share seeds. Ideally, adoption is forever or at least a year. Adoptive organizations also agree to periodically ink the stamp pad, sharpen the pencils, restock the stapler and recycled envelopes, and send [EIP photos of the stations in action](#).

Why?

Seed-sharing is an ancient practice throughout the world. It is currently under threat by big industrial seed corporations (e.g. Monsanto). They want to patent seeds and prevent us from sharing them so we will always be forced to buy from them. Seed sharing is crucial to our freedom, autonomy from capitalism and crucial for our collective survival.

download [Project Brief](#)

[Where can they be found?](#)

[Want to contribute seeds by mail?](#)

[Want to adopt one? <info@nomoola.com>](#)



Online Seed Resources



THE SEED SITE

<http://www.theseedsite.co.uk>

A website devoted entirely to seeds!

WELCOME to my webpages about seeds - collecting seeds, storing seeds, sowing seeds, germinating seeds and exchanging seeds, with pictures of seeds, seedpods and seedlings (and a bit of botany!)

[Seeds and Seed Pods](#) - If you want to collect your own seeds, but aren't sure what the seed or seedpod looks like, or if you have seeds without a name, hopefully this section will help you identify them. Life-size pictures of **1000** seeds in alphabetical order of their Latin name, **950** seeds sorted by size and shape, and close-up images of **900** seeds to show more detail. Photographs of **500** seedpods so you can recognise those too.

[Seed Harvesting](#) - A light-hearted look at seed collecting, which will tell you all you need to collect, dry and store seeds from the plants in your garden. Also includes answers to some Frequently Asked Questions to help ensure your seeds are ripe, healthy and viable, and several designs for seed envelope to put them in.

[Seed Sowing](#) - General information about how, when and where to sow seeds by several different methods. Explains the reasons you might want to use winter sowing, and suggests plants you can start this way. Information on stratification, scarification, and answers to more FAQs.

[Germination](#) - A Seed Germination Database - A table showing the results of sowing over 2000 batches of seeds of almost **1700** species, by several different methods, at different times of the year.

[Seedling Images](#) - Photos of **800** seedlings with their Latin and common names, or sorted according to the shape of the first true leaves, with their Latin and common names, to make it easier to identify the plants that come up in your garden, or to show you what should come up from the seeds you sow. Includes some FAQs about seedlings.

[Database](#) - bringing together the information from the other sections, with Latin names, Plant Family, English common name, Germination information, photographs of Seedpod, Seed and Seedling, for over **600** plants.

www.farmfolkcityfolk



FarmFolk CityFolk (Located in B.C.) is a not for profit society that works to cultivate a local, sustainable food system.

Our projects provide access to & protection of foodlands;

support local growers and producers;

engage communities in the celebration of local food.



Working to cultivate a local, sustainable food system.



Vancity



BC Seeds

A project of FarmFolk/CityFolk supporting BC's organic seed production

[Home](#)

[About Us](#)

[Seed Producers](#)

[Resources](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Small-scale Organic Seed Production, by Patrick Steiner

To download it, [click here](#)

BC Seed grower Patrick Steiner has published his first seed growing book: Small-Scale Organic Seed Production. This publication is not so much a "how-to" of seed growing as it is a "what to expect" when embarking on a journey of seed growing.

Patrick interviews several small-scale seed growers from Canada and the United States to get a glimpse of their experience over the years - their successes, their challenges, and what to expect in the future. Their stories are inspiring and do a wonderful job of preparing the reader for the world of seed growing.

Patrick himself is an experienced seed grower, operating Stellar Seeds (www.stellarseeds.com) in Salmon Arm, BC. He is well-known for his high-quality seeds as well as his involvement in

Your BC Seed Companies



Home

Support Us

About us

Advisory Services

Advocacy

Education

Research

Publications

Events

Organic Seed Growers
Conference

Newsletter

Farmer Seed
Stewardship

FAQ

Other Resources

ORGANIC
seed
ALLIANCE

Supporting the
Ethical Development &
Stewardship of Seed



Sign up for our E-Newsletter, action updates, and educational workshop announcements »

related resources

Login

This database is not for retail sales seed purchases.

The Seed Producers Database serves:

- producers of organic seed in search of new contracts and markets for their products
- seed companies in search of seed producers
- organic farmers looking to purchase larger bulk quantities of certified organic or biodynamic seed direct from farm
- seed producers seeking to network with other seed producers in their region or crop focus.

This database is maintained by Organic Seed Alliance. We reserve the right to delete inappropriate listings or profiles, but will contact you if we do so.

SeedMatters.org

An organization funded by the Cliff Bar Family to assist Seed Initiatives around the country.



Farmer Seed Stewardship Initiative

Farmer Seed Stewardship Initiative promotes farmers engagement in seed systems – training farmers in seed production and crop improvement, and advocating for farmers' ability to save, improve, and plant the seed they need.

For more than ten thousand years – through the simple act of observation, selection and seed saving – farmers have been the primary innovators and stewards of seed. Over the last thirty years farmer engagement in seed has been significantly reduced. We've lost centuries of traditional knowledge in a single generation, divorcing farmers from their longstanding relationship with seed. Seed Matters' partnership with [Organic Seed Alliance](#) works to reverse these trends, providing education, advocacy, and outreach that elevates and increases farmers' roles and skills as seed innovators.



Organic Seed Alliance is a longtime visionary and leader in education, research and advocacy. One example of OSA's partnership with Seed Matters is their Fundamentals of On-Farm Plant Breeding workshops.

[Read More](#)





Start a Community Seed Project

Across the country, people are reclaiming seed as a public resource for local food and gardening communities. We encourage you to start your own community seed project, and keep this amazing momentum growing. Our Community Seed Toolkit resources are free, adaptable, informative, and meant to be shared, just like seed. Whether you are a beginner seed saver or long-time organizer of seed projects, these downloads will help guide you through the steps needed to develop seed projects that fit your community.

In addition to the resources below, we have a limited supply of physical toolkits to grant to school, community and other educational gardens that incorporate seed saving practices. These kits include wood framed seed screens, seed envelopes, and labels. If you have a community seed project and are interested in receiving a free kit, please fill out this brief [application](#).

The Work of Others

Check out the seed saving resources of our friends and partners listed below.

- [Organic Seed Alliance](#) (Free Online Seed Saving Guides and more advanced information for farmers)
- [Seed Ambassadors](#) (Free Online Seed Saving Guides)
- [Seed Library Social Network](#) (A place for people working on community seed projects to connect)
- [Richmond Grows](#) (Resources for starting a seed library)
- [Seed Savers Exchange](#) (THE national exchange of heirloom seed)

Community Seed Toolkit

Community Seed Toolkits provide resources to community gardeners, educators, and organizers interested in creating community-based seed events, exchanges, seed banks, and plant breeding clubs. We not only encourage and support community seed projects, we also promote the sharing and exchange of seed, knowledge, and skills.

Community seed projects revive a tradition we've shared in growing food for centuries: from a handful of seed, we grow, gather, and share more seeds – enough not only for ourselves but an abundance to pass on to neighbors, family, and the next generation of gardeners and farmers. Saving and exchanging seeds is the way we discover new varieties, preserve heirlooms, and breed locally adapted varieties. Whether you are a beginner seed saver or long-time organizer of seed projects, our educational resources can guide you through the decisions it takes to develop projects that fit the needs of your community.

We encourage you to learn more about our downloadable resources or to apply for a seed saving toolkit – both can help jump start a new project or lend support to an existing project.



A group of seed savers started out with a seed swap, and now are on their way to creating a local seed library. With the help of our Community Seed Toolkits you cultivate your own local seed solutions.

[Find out more](#)



Organic Seed Research and Education Grants

Organic Seed Research and Education Grants provide critical funding to organic farmers, educators, researchers and others to improve organic seed quality and crop breeding.

Increasing the resiliency and diversity of organic seed systems requires strengthening farmers' roles as seed innovators. All research funded by Seed Matters grants occurs on certified organic farms. These grants improve crops for farmers across the country – from broccoli in North Carolina to corn in the Dakotas.

Grants are managed by our partners at the [Organic Farming Research Foundation \(OFRF\)](#), who welcome proposals twice per year. For deadlines and additional information [visit OFRF](#).



Organic corn growers struggle to keep their crops free of contamination from genetically engineered corn. Learn how Frank Kutka, a Seed Matters grant recipient, is breeding organic corn varieties that naturally reject pollen from genetically engineered corn.

[Learn More](#)

We welcome you to our blog, The Seed Commons.

A commons is a shared resource or space that benefits everyone. Historically towns were built around the square – a place for discourse and debate, for celebration and protest. Natural resources – like seed – were also held in commons. We live in a time when the commons is being lost to commodification. Seed Matters wants to revive a sense of shared purpose, benefits and responsibility when it comes to seed....join with us in The Seed Commons. We encourage submissions from guest writers, and suggestions for subjects. Please contact us if you are interested.



Seed Events

Workshops And Symposiums
That have been offered this
summer to further the
education of Seed
Production.

Student Organic Seed Symposium



By Nicole Miller

Plant breeders who develop new vegetable varieties for organic farming systems are far and few between. The same goes for graduate students who want to go in that line of work. They can feel rather isolated—even at schools with large plant breeding programs.

After last week's Student Organic Seed Symposium, however, these distances may not feel quite so far.

For three days last week, 20 graduate students from around the nation—including five from CALS—gathered in Greensboro, Vermont to meet

and mingle, discuss their breeding projects and learn from experts and business owners in the field. The symposium, which was the first of its kind in the nation, was conceived and organized by three CALS graduate students affiliated with the plant breeding program: Claire Luby, Alex Lyon and Adrienne Shelton.

"It was really cool when we came up with our list of presenters and contacted them. and within four days



Student Organic Seed Symposium **August 5-8, 2012 – Greensboro, Vermont**

The purpose of the Student Organic Seed Symposium is to develop and support new leaders in organic and sustainable plant breeding and seed systems. This project is a student-led initiative that provides a unique opportunity for graduate students interested in organic seed systems to share resources with one another and learn from leaders in the field.

OSA's John Navazio and Jared Zystro will present workshops on Participatory Plant Breeding and organic breeding at this exciting new symposium in Greensboro, Vermont. For more information, please visit the [Student Organic Seed Symposium website](#).



On-Farm Variety Trials: Benefits and Methods **July 23, 2012 - Whidbey Island, Washington**

Join OSA's Micaela Colley at Greenbank Farm, Whidbey Island, Washington, on July 23rd from 12 pm - 3pm for an On-Farm Variety Trial course. The course will provide training in basic on-farm experimental design, as well as the tools to efficiently and effectively manage on-farm trials and utilize trial results. For more information and to register, please visit the [Greenbank Farm website](#).



2012 Organic Seed and Breeding Field School **August 9, 2012 – Wolcott, Vermont**

Join OSA's John Navazio and Jared Zystro at High Mowing Seed's 2012 Organic Seed and Breeding Field School on [August 9, 2012 from 9 am - 6 pm in Wolcott, Vermont.](#)

This is a day-long training for extension agents, seed growers, seed companies and farmers. The event will include talks by leading plant breeders from around the country as well as hands-on participatory activities. Key areas of organic focus will include: Plant Breeding and Selection, Research Trials and Seed Production. This event is intended to be intensive and will have limited registration. For more information and to apply to register, please visit the [High Mowing Organic Seeds website.](#)

Seed Saving and Breeding for Organic Farms | August 13, 2012 – Verona Wisconsin

Learn the fundamental skills to maintain, develop, and adapt seed varieties for your organic farm at this workshop in

Verona, Wisconsin hosted by University of Wisconsin-Madison and Organic Seed Alliance.

The workshop is presented as part of the Northern Organic Vegetable Improvement Collaborative (NOVIC), a farmer-researcher participatory network working to breed and test varieties in the northern tier for organic farms. Organic plant breeding specialist Dr. John Navazio and Professor Bill Tracy will discuss such topics as: the biology of seed, on-farm seed production basics, choosing appropriate seed crops for your system and climate, maintaining the genetic integrity of varieties with appropriate population sizes and isolation distances, conducting variety trials, and basic on-farm breeding techniques such as mass selection and progeny testing. NOVIC participants from UW will share regional NOVIC efforts and trial results. This workshop will be of interest to farmers who want to improve their success with saving seed for on-farm use as well as those seeking to breed their own varieties or grow seed on a larger scale



Organic Variety Selection and Seed Saving Workshop **August 16, 2012 – Lafayette Indiana**

Organic vegetable farmers need varieties with more disease resistance, better ability to compete with weeds, less susceptibility to insect pests, and excellent flavor and nutritional attributes. Organic Seed Alliance, Purdue University, Washington State University, and the Carrot Improvement for Organic Agriculture (CIOA) project will host this one-day workshop at Purdue University Meig's Horticulture Research Farm in Lafayette, Indiana. This workshop will address how to maintain and adapt vegetable varieties for your organic farm, and how to participate in regional efforts to develop new varieties that thrive on organic farms. For more information and to register, please visit the [Carrot Improvement for Organic Agriculture \(CIOA\) events page](#).



Fundamentals of On-Farm Plant Breeding Workshop | September 22-23, 2012 – Nevada City, CA

Learn the fundamental skills to develop and adapt seed varieties for your organic farm conditions at this 2-day workshop in Nevada City, CA hosted by Organic Seed Alliance and Sierra Seed Cooperative.

Organic Plant Breeding Specialist Dr. John Navazio of Organic Seed Alliance and Washington State University will discuss such topics as: the biology of seed production, seed harvest and cleaning, choosing appropriate seed crops for your system and climate, maintaining the genetic integrity of varieties with appropriate population sizes and isolation distances, conducting variety trials, and basic on-farm breeding techniques such as mass selection and progeny testing. For more information and to register, please visit the [registration page](#).

SAVING SEEDS FARM

August 17 – 20, 2012 - Sedgwick Maine

2012 Seed Camp @ Saving Seeds Farm

A weekend-long intensive course on small-scale farming and seed production. Includes full-day workshop with master seedsman Will Bonsall, founder of Scatterseed Project and major curator for Seed Savers Exchange. Learn how to produce a variety of seeds as well as other skills needed to be a successful small-scale seed grower. Farm tours, workshops, hands-on learning, and time for socializing. Deadline for registration is July 31. Tenting and outdoor accommodations available. Partial scholarships and work trade available. For more info contact Bob St.Peter at 244-0908 or foodformainesfuture207@gmail.com.

Cost: \$300, includes 8 meals made from seasonal and organic ingredients. Vegetarian/vegan options available.



International Seed Saving Institute

saving seeds, seed-saving education and permaculture

<http://www.seedsave.org>

Feel the need for seed!

Seed School

with Bill McDorman and Guests. "Regional, Sustainable, Diverse. Inspiring Gardeners to Think Seeds First!". Seed School is an innovative **5-day school** designed to help participants create new regional and sustainable seed production and distribution systems. The workshop trains gardeners, farmers, seed savers, entrepreneurs, NGOs, policy makers and anyone interested in turning the tide on the industrialization of our food and agriculture.

International Seed Saving Institute (ISSI)

The non-profit, educational organization dedicated to seed saving, seed saving education and permaculture.

to learn more and buy.



Northern Collection

22 varieties + Basic Seed Saving booklet

\$50



Southern Collection

22 varieties + Basic Seed Saving booklet

\$50



Salsa Collection

7 varieties + Salsa Recipes

\$15

Be prepared for abundance!



Founders Collection

22 varieties + Basic Seed Saving booklet

\$50



Urban / Small Garden Collection

13 varieties + Basic Seed Saving booklet

\$30

If you would like to give the gift of a seed collection, we will include a personalized card for your loved one.





Hawai'i Seed Initiatives

Eastside Seed Exchange & Harvest Festival



Saturday, September 22, 2012
9:00am - 2:30pm *Free Event*

Schedule

8:30 am - Set up open
(bring your own tables and chairs, & scrap paper for small packets for seeds)
9:00 am - Opening Circle
9:15 am - Seed Swap
10:00 am - Panel Presentation
11:45 am - 100% Local Food Contest:
12:30 pm - Local Food Potluck
(bring your own plates, utensils, etc)
1:15 pm - Marimba Dance with Mwenje

La'akea Permaculture Gardens

Pahoa *This is a Free Event*

Bring your favorite dishes using only locally grown food for the 2nd Annual LOCAL FOOD COOK OFF & POTLUCK !!!
Optional competition for best savory and sweet dish.

Bring Seeds, plants, cuttings, or keikies
(We will have a testing station for Little Fire Ants).

- Take home localized seeds (bringing seeds not required)
- Presentations on Issues Related to Growing Food in Puna
- Enter the Local Cook Off!
- Try new taste delights at the Local Food Potluck!
- Meet your neighbors, other gardeners & innovative thinkers
- Marimba Music with Mwenje

...cal foods cooking competition or to present your favorite
...d please contact Tracy@permaculture-hawaii.com

Seed Exchanges,

West Hawai'i Community Seed Exchange



Friday
Nov.
2nd

Free Annual
Event!

share seeds,
ideas & get to know
your community of
"seed People!"

3:00 p.m to 5:00 p.m. - Seed Exchange

Also Offering Seed Saving & Seed Production Basics

A 2 day Workshop for Farmers & Gardeners
Designed to create a practical working knowledge of seed growing, botany & biology, selection, harvesting, cleaning, and saving of various types of seed. Presentations and "hands-on work"

Sat. & Sunday, Nov. 3rd & 4th

Workshop Cost: \$50 (includes a Seed manual & lunch both days)

Camping available at the Garden Friday & Saturday night -

You Must make reservations to camp-Call 756-5310

To register for the workshop - <http://kohalacenter.org/seedbasicsworkshop/hawaii.html>

Both events are sponsored by the Hawai'i Public Seed Initiative will be held at
Amy Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden, Captain Cook
For questions call 756-5310

SEED EXCHANGE



Saturday, November 19, 2011
10 am - 1 pm

Ko'ea'au Youth Business Center
(in Ko'ea'au Shopping Center)

Pre-cleaned, pest-free, GMO free and
non-invasive material welcome



Log on to www.kybc808.com or call KYBC
at 966-6354 for more information

- West Hawai'i
- Once a
year for the
last 10 years

- East Hawaii -
- Once a
year for the
last 8 years



[http://kohalacenter.org/
publicseedinitiative](http://kohalacenter.org/publicseedinitiative)

The Hawai'i Public Seed Initiative

On April 16-19, 2010 a group of 110 farmers and gardeners assembled from across the state of Hawai'i for the "Hua Ka Hua - Restore Our Seed" Public Seed Symposium.

As a result a Statewide Seed Working Group has emerged and we now have conducted Seed Production Basics Workshops on all 5 islands. We have a web site and are on facebook for statewide communication and a source of knowledge and sharing for growing, selecting, drying, and saving high quality open pollinated seed.



**Kaua'i Seed Basic Workshop
Nov. 6-8, 2011**



O'ahu Seed Basic Workshop
March 24-26, 2012



**Maui Seed Basic Workshop
May 19-21, 2012**



Molokai Seed Basic Workshop August 24-25, 2012



ON **HAWAI'I ISLAND, NOV 3RD & 4TH 2012,**

\$50 -Includes Seed Manual, Lunch both days

A TWO DAY INTENSIVE HANDS-ON WORKSHOP ON SEED SAVING & PRODUCTION

YOU MUST BE REGISTERED TO ATTEND- REGISTRATION DEADLINE OCT. 15
ONLINE REGISTRATION & PAYMENT AVAILABLE

Scholarships for youth interested in agriculture will be offered, Grade 11 - college
Camping on site Fri. & Sat Nights will be available - Reservations ARE REQUIRED.

At Amy Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden, Captain Cook

- History of Seed in Hawai'i and Global Perspective
- Seed Production Basics - Botany and Biology
- Maintaining Crop Genetics, Cultivate, Harvest, Process & Store Seed
- Selecting For Crop Genetics When Living On A Small Island
- Presentations & Field Work, "Hands on Seed Saving Techniques"

Also Nov 2nd, Friday, 3pm - 5pm Our 10th Annual Seed Exchange .

This year we have invited students from the Hawaii School Garden Network to bring seed from their gardens. The public is welcome - Bring and share your saved seeds!

Sponsored by The Hawai'i Public Seed Initiative

Workshop partners: University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture & Human Resources, The Kohala Center, Regenerations Botanical Garden, Amy Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden.

For questions contact LynHowe@seedproject@kohalacenter.org 808-756-5310

For Registration & Scholarship Forms, Agenda & More Information

<http://www.kohalacenter.org/seedbasicsworkshop/about.html>

OUR HAWAI'I ISLAND
WORKSHOP IS THE LAST IN
THIS 2011-12 SERIES OF
"SEED PRODUCTION
BASICS" WORKSHOPS THAT
WE HAVE PRESENTED ON
ALL 5 HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.

THE BEGINNING OF OUR FIRST INTERISLAND CROP TRIAL



Name: MANOA LETTUCE

Source: UH MANOA

Date: Nov. 2011



Name: KOMOHANA TOMATO

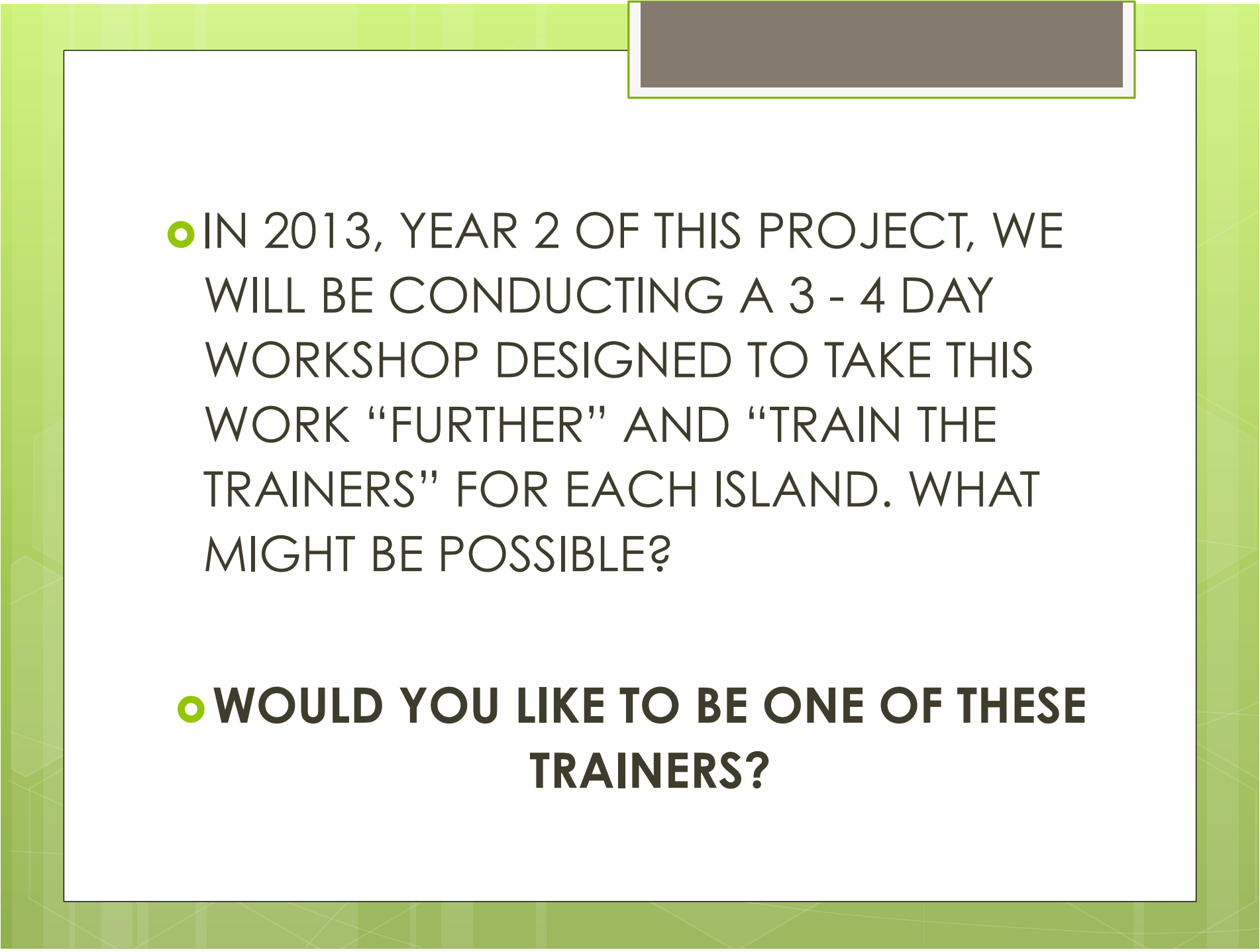
Source: UH MANOA

Date: Nov. 2011

What Community Resources Might Be Available To Help Create Your Network?

What Are Some Alliances That might be available in your community?

- Permaculture or farming groups.
- Church groups.
- Local garden clubs.
- Master gardeners.
- Library or community space holders.
- Neighbors/Friends/Family
- Schools
- Online resources



- IN 2013, YEAR 2 OF THIS PROJECT, WE WILL BE CONDUCTING A 3 - 4 DAY WORKSHOP DESIGNED TO TAKE THIS WORK “FURTHER” AND “TRAIN THE TRAINERS” FOR EACH ISLAND. WHAT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE?

- **WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE ONE OF THESE TRAINERS?**