



Organic Intensives

Saturday, January 11, 2020

We invite you to join us on Saturday, January 11th 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 2020 we have invited individuals who are nationally-recognized experts and practitioners in one of three topic areas:

Successful Biological Orchardling

Fascinating biological connections make for a healthy orchard ecosystem. All insect pests and fruit tree disease – whether fungal or bacterial – have launching points and particular timing. Healthy trees address these challenges first and foremost from within. Growers utilizing an ongoing investment in soil nutrition and biodiversity set the stage for gentler organic sprays to grow a successful fruit crop. The challenges you face at your locale will become far more manageable as you build a holistic system that keeps trees and berry plantings healthy from the get-go. We'll wrap up this day with important marketing perspective for selling the good fruit. Our guide for this session will be Michael Phillips of Lost Nation Orchard, author of *The Holistic Orchard*, *The Apple Grower*, and most recently *Mycorrhizal Planet: How Fungi and Plants Work Together to Create Dynamic Soils*.

Organic No-Till Farming

In recent years we have learned that tilling kills beneficial soil life, burns up organic matter, and releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. If the ground could instead be prepared for planting without tilling, time and energy could be saved, soil organic matter increased, carbon sequestered, and dependence on machinery reduced. Andrew Mefferd, author of *The Organic No-Till Farming Revolution* will discuss his experiences in talking with farmers during the development of the book, and will address practical as well as philosophical approaches that can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase efficiency and profitability, and promote soil health. He will also discuss his experiences working on a no-till research farm, and how he applied the ideas on his own farm.

Local Organic Herbs for Health

An investment in your diet is an investment in your health and quality of life. jim mcdonald, one of the country's premier herbal practitioners and educators, will offer a detailed look at several ways herbs that you can grow, harvest or purchase locally can be used in your daily diet for health. jim has been teaching practical herbalism for decades. His website (herbcraft.org) has long been a source of information and a starting point of exploration for budding and blooming herbalists. Focus topics will include bitter herbs as an important dietary health component, gut healing teas, profiles of a range of easy to grow and harvest plants, and detailed demonstrations of using, extracting (water, alcohol, oil) and preserving methods.

The event will take place on Saturday, January 11th, at the Plant and Soil Sciences Building on the MSU campus in East Lansing. The day begins with registration at 8:00; sessions begin at 9:00 and end at 5:00, and are followed by an informal reception in the Conservatory. The registration fee includes six hours of learning, lunch, and comprehensive printed materials. For more information, please visit www.moffa.net/oi-2020.html, or if you don't have internet access, give us a call at 248-262-6826 or write us at the address below.