

Organic Intensives

MOFFA ORGANIC INTENSIVES is a day-long, concentrated learning experience for farmers and serious gardeners. As participants in the plethora of Michigan conferences, as well as hosting our own conference for many years, we believed that if we could channel our resources into a day of intensive coverage of a limited number of specific topics we could fill a need that was not currently being met. In addition this would allow us, as a volunteer-run non-profit organization, to maximize our resources in a realistic manner.

MOFFA held its first Organic Intensives in March, 2015, and those who have attended since have found the sessions to be of greater than expected value. Thus we will continue to offer to current and future farmers, as well as serious gardeners, an opportunity to focus intensely on subjects for which there is substantial interest and a desire to reach a level of deep understanding.

For 2020, MOFFA is working with individuals who are nationally recognized experts and educators in one of three topic areas:

- Successful Biological Orchardling with Michael Phillips
- Organic No-Till Farming with Andrew Mefferd
- Local Organic Herbs for Health with jim mcdonald

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. Are herbs a part of your diet and/or your farm or garden food and medicine growing? They certainly can and should be. 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.

Date & Place

This year's Organic Intensives will be held on Saturday, January 11, 2020, at the Plant and Soil Sciences building at 1066 Bogue St. on the MSU campus in East Lansing.

Registration begins at 8:00 am. Sessions begin at 9:00 and last until 5:00, with a break for lunch in the conservatory, as well as short breaks during the morning and afternoon sessions.



The registration fee includes six hours of learning, lunch, and comprehensive printed materials. The cost for the full day of Organic Intensives is \$85 for MOFFA members and \$115 for non-members—but prior to December 9, registration is open only to those who have paid their MOFFA dues for 2020. Space is limited and you are encouraged to register early.

Sponsorships

MOFFA welcomes organizations and allied trade companies that are able to support our educational initiatives and efforts to keep the cost of OI and other educational events as affordable as possible for participants. Please contact us.

Scholarships

Please contact us if you are would like to participate but are unable to pay the full registration cost, or if you are able to provide financial support for participants.

More information is available at
www.moffa.net/OI-2020.html.

About MOFFA

The Michigan Organic Food and Farm Alliance was organized in 1992 as a nonprofit organization with the mission of promoting organic agriculture and the development and support of food systems that revitalize and sustain local communities. MOFFA was one of the first organizations in Michigan and in the nation to actively promote these principles.

MOFFA welcomes new members to join us and get involved in creating a better food system for Michigan. Our members include organic and other farmers, food coops, educators, environmentalists, food businesses, food and farm activists and concerned citizens throughout Michigan and elsewhere.

Each year MOFFA sponsors and/or exhibits at a number of major conferences and festivals in Michigan, which allows us to reach many more individuals with our limited resources. We also maintain a website, www.moffa.net, and a Facebook page, and publish a quarterly newsletter.

All of this activity is made possible by the contributions of our members. If you haven't joined for this year, we hope you will take a few minutes to lend your support.

MOFFA

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