



# Summer 2012: Soils Building

## Workshop Series

Northeast Organic Farming Association/ Massachusetts Chapter

Soil health is a foundational component of a successful organic farming system. This workshop series takes place at farms throughout Massachusetts that are using a range of practices to build their soils to increase the yield and nutritional quality of their crops.

The workshops are led by growers who are implementing a variety of practices including mineral balancing, biological inoculations, and integration of crop and livestock systems on their farm. Presenters will explain and demonstrate the systems they have developed to enhance soil fertility and discuss the connection they see between their farming practices and nutritional quality. The emphasis of this workshop series is on the "how" of implementing soil building objectives on the farm, although the "why" will also be addressed.



Be prepared for an outdoor workshop and please refrain from wearing any scented body care/laundry products.

### Registration Form

- **Register** online with credit card at [www.nofamass.org](http://www.nofamass.org)
- **Or, mail** this registration form (*Please print neatly!*) to **Ben Grosscup, 67 North Whitney St #4, Amherst, MA 01002**
- **Checks payable to:** "NOFA/Mass."
- **Pre-registration** is required unless arranged by phone with the organizer, Ben Grosscup, cell: 413-658-5374.
- **Cancellations** will be honored and refunds issued (except \$8 processing fee) with notice made within 10 or more days of the workshop. After that, you may designate someone else to attend in your stead, but refunds will not be available.
- **Contact:** Ben Grosscup, 413-658-5374. By email, [ben.grosscup@nofamass.org](mailto:ben.grosscup@nofamass.org); put **"Soils Building"** in subject.

Name		Email (Get event updates and save paper by including this)	
Address		City/Town	State ZIP Code
Phone	How did you hear about this workshop? (Be specific about names of people or newsletters.)		
Registering for NOFA/Mass events includes you in our monthly Electronic News, updating you on events and other info. Check box if you want to be excluded from this: <input type="checkbox"/>		Carpooling: Do you give permission to share your contact info with others in order to carpool to the workshop? Please circle one: YES / NO	

### Membership

Check one:  I'm not a member of NOFA;  I'm a member of the (what state?)  NOFA Chapter.

To sign up for or renew your NOFA/Mass Membership, check the box for the membership type you want.

- Individual - \$40     
  Low Income - \$25     
  \*Family, Farm or Organization - \$50  
 \*Lg. Farm/Business \$75     
  \*Supporting - \$250     
 (\* Entitles members to 2 reduced rates at NOFA/Mass events.)

### Registration

Check boxes of the workshop(s) you're registering for (letters & descriptions on back). Add up the total cost and enter it on the right.				
<input type="checkbox"/> A) \$30 (May 12)	<input type="checkbox"/> B) \$30 (June 17)	<input type="checkbox"/> C) \$30 (June 23)	<input type="checkbox"/> D) \$30 (July 22)	<input type="checkbox"/> E) \$30 (Sept. 15)
Members Discount – NOFA and MOFGA members subtract \$5/workshop:				-
Early bird discount – If sent 14 days before the workshop, subtract \$5/workshop:				-
NOFA/Mass Membership Payment – Add figure from membership scale above:				+
Donation for Farming Education Fund – Optional extra contribution:				+
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT OF ENCLOSED PAYMENT</b>				<b>=</b>

# Soils Building Workshops in Summer 2012



## **Brix Bounty Farm, 858 Tucker Road, Dartmouth, MA**

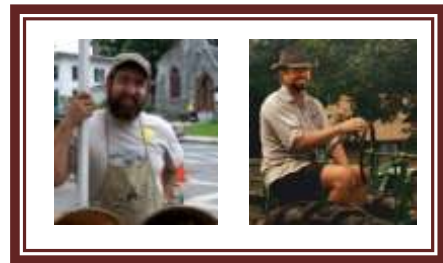
- Instructor: **Derek Christianson** is a farmer and community educator at Brix Bounty Farm, which emphasizes a biological approach to increasing the nutritional quality of their produce while strengthening their soils for long-term productivity.

### **A) Saturday, May 12, 9am-12pm, Transplants and Seed Starting, \$30 \*\*\*followed by optional potluck lunch**

Starting strong seedlings is an essential step toward maximizing yields. Our seed starting program includes inoculation, seed soaking, drenching, and foliar. In addition, we'll focus on steps taken to ensure transplants develop a vigorous root system after transplanting and thereby increase the potential for crop health and production.

### **B) Sunday, June 17, 3pm-6pm, Foliar Sprays and Crop Monitoring, \$30 \*\*\*followed by optional potluck lunch**

Addressing mineral deficiencies through foliar sprays may improve crop vigor and vitality; and thereby increase root exudates which feed soil biology. This workshop will focus on discussing, demonstrating, and formulating proper foliar sprays used to improve crop health while including an emphasis on tools and techniques useful for crop monitoring.



## **Simple Gifts Farm, 1089 N. Pleasant Street in North Amherst, MA**

- Instructors: **Jeremy Barker-Plotkin** and **Dave Tepfer** are co-owners of Simple Gifts Farm. This community farm in the heart of North Amherst is restoring soil fertility through a crop rotation between vegetables and fallow/pasture period, featuring livestock and forage crops.

### **C) Saturday, June 23, 1pm-4pm, An Integrated Crop & Livestock System for Soil Building, \$30**

We build into our rotation one out of four years in a forage crop. Grazing animals (cattle and sheep) are used to help the forage crop cycle nutrients, and grain-fed animals (chickens and pigs) import nutrients to the farm. This workshop will explain our crop rotation, management systems for the animals, as well as touching on the mineral and liquid fertilizers that we use to supplement the fertility generated by our animals and forage crops.



## **Many Hands Organic Farm, 411 Sheldon Road, Barre, MA**

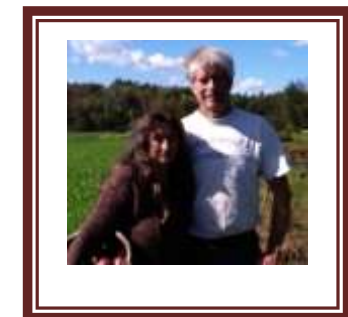
- Instructor: **Julie Rawson** life-long farmer and zealot for nutrition in the soil and the human body.

- Instructor: **Jason Cucchiara** – the irrigation specialist, aka “the big drip”.

- Instructor: **Brian Fecteau** – the machine guy, construction and repair whiz.

### **D) Sunday, July 22, 9am-1pm: Managing Biological Fertility on a Diversified Certified Organic Farm, \$30 \*\*\*includes potluck lunch**

On less than 3 acres of vegetable and small fruit land we gross \$93,000. On roughly 6 acres for our meat chickens, layers, pigs, steers and turkeys, we gross \$46,000. We will cover seedlings, fertility management – manure (including intricate animal rotations), dry fertilizers, biologicals, fertigation and foliar – cover and undersowing crops, mulches and compost. We will demonstrate drip irrigation, foliar feeding, our new vermi-composting experiment in our hoop house, and animal systems.



## **Lindentree Farm, 10 Old Concord Road, Lincoln, MA**

- Instructors: **Ari Kurtz** and **Moira Donnell** own and operate LindenTree Farm CSA.

### **E) Saturday, September 15, 3pm-6pm, Fertigation and Cover Cropping Systems for Fertility Management, \$30**

On our farm, we're aiming to respond to soil tests with strategies for increasing availability of nutrients and improve quality of selected crops. We will demonstrate and explain our practices for foliar feeding and fertigation in vegetable production as well as several cover-cropping strategies we use. Some control plots demonstrate the effectiveness of these techniques. This will be our third season using these methods on parts of our 14 acre farm.

NOFA/Mass Corporate Sponsors:

