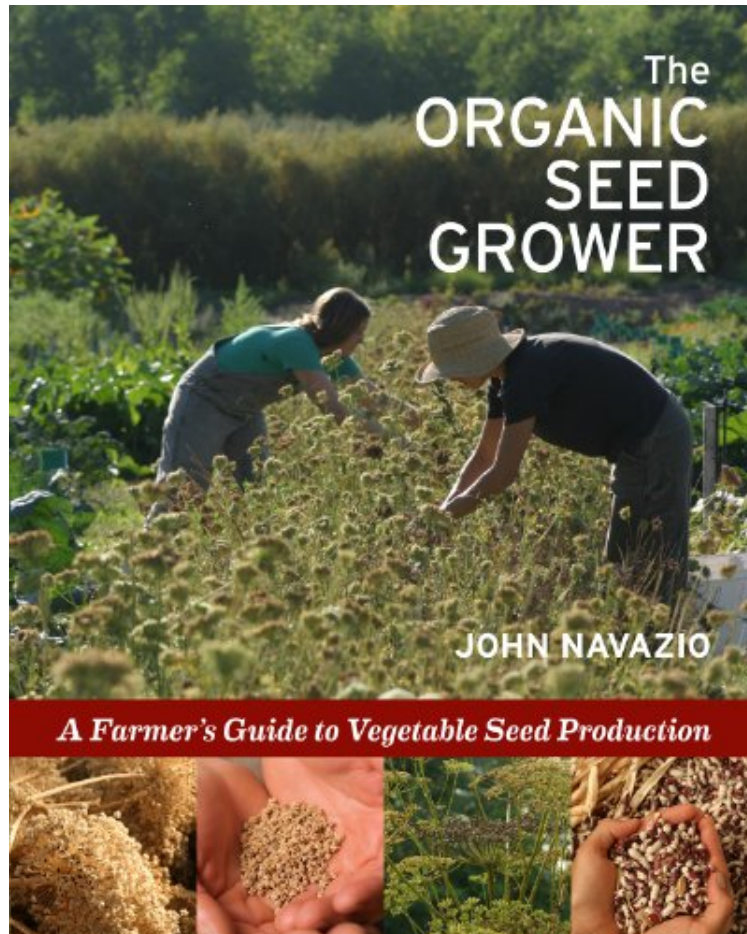


[Read free] The Organic Seed Grower: A Farmer's Guide to Vegetable Seed Production

The Organic Seed Grower: A Farmer's Guide to Vegetable Seed Production

John Navazio

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John Navazio : The Organic Seed Grower: A Farmer's Guide to Vegetable Seed Production before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Organic Seed Grower: A Farmer's Guide to Vegetable Seed Production:

22 of 22 people found the following review helpful. Where has this book been all my life?By OxenmantimThis is an amazing book. While it's primary purpose is to be a textbook and guide for those seeking to produce organic vegetable seed, it is so much more.The book is broken down by crop family, with specific advice for each family and for each crop. By far the best part of this book is the emphasis on selection for crop improvement. He give major explanations for the different sorts of selection each crop should go through and the PROPER TIMING within the plants life cycle for each selection step that will maximize the effectiveness of the selection. The book also gives specific advise on how to avoid accidentally selecting for poor characteristics and which traits of each crop species are hardest to

maintain and thus the most important to select for. That is incredible information that's NEVER been in print before to my knowledge, at least never before all in one place. In a sense this is the ultimate seed saving manual as well, for the true seed producer must select in order to maintain any variety true to its original character. This book is incredibly information-dense while remaining friendly and accessible to any reader. John Navazio's career as a plant breeder in the commercial seed industry has given him a wealth of knowledge regarding vegetable seed production and he shares an amazing amount of that in this book. But he is also clearly a gifted writer and communicator because the book is engaging and fun to read despite the density and depth of the content. Any organic farmer who has a thought to producing some of their own seed should own this book. It will teach you things about your crops you never knew. This book is also vastly superior to any seed saving manual currently in print, so serious seed saving gardeners should think about owning a copy as well. I cannot say enough good things about this book, it is a masterpiece. 9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. must read!!! and grow. . . By Katherine Navazio is terrific and this is a "Must read" for anyone interested in the health of our food supply. It provides critical information, not available in other sources, that is easy to read from the professional to the home gardener-- Its said that there is more diversity in the home garden than in almost any ecosystem- Thanks to this book farmers can do our share to keep our food production diverse and health- a really good piece of professional work that can change home gardening! 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Comprehensive guide to organic seed production By Patrick D Culbert This book is a definitive guide to growing your own seed, as a commercial produce farmer, seed producer, or home gardener. The pictures are not only beautiful, but also instructive for people who have not seen common vegetables grown out into seed. Although there are several guides to seed saving already on the market, and a few guides to plant breeding for the home gardener, none of them provide the thorough technical background that this one does, making this the go-to guide for serious seed producers. And yet this book remains totally readable for farmers and non-farmers alike.

The Organic Seed Grower is a comprehensive manual for the serious vegetable grower who is interested in growing high-quality seeds using organic farming practices. It is written for both serious home seed savers and diversified small-scale farmers who want to learn the necessary steps involved in successfully producing a commercial seed crop organically. Detailed profiles for each of the major vegetables provide users with practical, in-depth knowledge about growing, harvesting, and processing seed for a wide range of common and specialty vegetable crops, from Asian greens to zucchini. In addition, readers will find extensive and critical information on topics including: The reproductive biology of crop plants Annual vs. biennial seed crops Isolation distances needed to ensure varietal purity Maintaining adequate population size for genetic integrity Seed crop climates Seed-borne diseases Seed-cleaning basics Seed storage for farmers and more . . . This book can serve as a bridge to lead skilled gardeners, who are already saving their own seed, into the idea of growing seed commercially. And for diversified vegetable farmers who are growing a seed crop for sale for the first time, it will provide details on many of the tricks of the trade that are used by professional seed growers. This manual will help the budding seed farmer to become more knowledgeable, efficient, and effective in producing a commercially viable seed crop. With the strong demand for certified organic produce, many regional seed companies are increasingly seeking out dedicated seed growers to ensure a reliable source of organically grown seeds for their farmer and gardener customers. This trend represents a great business opportunity for small-scale commercial growers who wish to raise and sell vegetable seeds as a profitable part of their diversified small-farm operation. Written by well-known plant breeder and organic seed expert John Navazio, The Organic Seed Grower is the most up-to-date and useful guide to best practices in this exciting and important field.

From Booklist The rising demand for organic fruits and vegetables in our supermarket produce aisles has recently put more pressure on agricultural companies to supply an equally organic variety of seed stock. In this exceptionally informative and well-organized guide to producing organic vegetable seeds, Washington State University plant-breeding specialist Navazio frames this demand as a golden opportunity for small farm operations and other botanically inclined entrepreneurs to fill a burgeoning business niche. After an introductory section providing a short history of agricultural seed collections, as well as a brief lesson on reproductive crop biology, Navazio gives well-explained, detailed instructions on cultivating seeds from the nine different families of vegetables, from Alliaceae (leeks and onions) to Solanaceae (peppers and tomatoes). A third section overviews tricky topics, such as calculating isolation distances between different crops and dealing with seed-borne diseases. Although Navazio's guide is primarily aimed at small and large seed-production enterprises, novice gardeners can also benefit from learning how to harvest and store their seeds for future growing seasons. --Carl Hays ForeWord s-As interest grows in sustainable agriculture practices, the need for organic seed is also on the rise. For a farm to be certified organic, the seed also has to be designated as such, but its not just those seeking or holding certifications who are leaning toward using this kind of seed. Gardeners, hobby farmers, community garden managers, and others are driving demand, particularly for heirloom vegetable varieties. Although there are several commercial companies that offer organic seed for sale, smaller growers and hobbyists are finding enjoyment and affordability in 'seed saving' for themselves. In this valuable, highly detailed exploration of the topic, John Navazio takes readers through the steps necessary to produce an organic

seed crop, with best practices, a primer on crop plant biology, and tips on seed storage. Navazio is well-versed in the topic as the senior scientist for the Organic Seed Alliance and a plant breeding and seed specialist for Washington State University Extension. Insightful and experienced, Navazio provides information in a straightforward, easy-to-follow manner. After a fascinating stroll through the history of agricultural seed, he then covers vegetable families such as alliaceae, brassicaceae, and cucurbitaceae and their characteristics before delving into the details of particular vegetables, like leeks or lettuce. Even for those who don't plan on seed saving, these chapters are stunning in their straightforward presentation of complex material, including soil and fertility requirements, growing methods, harvest, and genetic maintenance. As a farmer might say, every description is nutritionally dense. Although the guide is most relevant to farmers who might want to sell seeds as part of a diversified small-farm operation, Navazio's expertise will likely be fascinating to the backyard gardener as well. Much like other types of homesteading skills, seed saving can be something of an art, and, fortunately, Navazio is an expert teacher.

John Navazio has written a fantastic guide for organic seed breeders and producers. He has taken organic seed production to a higher level with extensive information on selection, genetic integrity, isolation distances, and seedborne diseases. Although his focus is on plant breeders and commercial growers, much of the information is also applicable to small-scale farms producing seed for on-site use.

--Suzanne Ashworth, Del Rio Botanical; author of *Seed to Seed With The Organic Seed Grower*, well-respected plant breeder and seed expert

Dr. John Navazio has written "The definitive book on organic vegetable seed production. Encyclopedic, yet well written and approachable, this seminal work deserves a place in every grower's library. From the organic farmer seeking a comprehensive reference, to the family farmer who wants to learn how to guarantee access to a favorite variety, to the progressive seed saver committed to success all will find this book an indispensable guide and Navazio a trusted partner in organic seed improvement.

-- Jim Gerritsen, president, Organic Seed Growers and Trade Association (OSGATA)

John Navazio has made a keystone contribution to the future of the grassroots organic seed movement. The *Organic Seed Grower* is a fundamental resource for the preservation and improvement of agricultural biodiversity. It is an essential guide to high-quality, organic seed production: well grounded in fundamental principles, brimming with practical techniques, thorough in coverage, and remarkably well organized, accessible, and readable.

--Jeff McCormack, Ph.D., founder of Southern Exposure Seed Exchange

There is nothing more important right now than growing and saving seeds; that most essential aspect of life. While we may have all done this once upon a time, we have mostly lost these skills to private industry or urbanization. Until now. John Navazio reveals all the techniques and tricks, some simple and some complex, that he's learned only after decades of careful observation and practice. Incredible photos help tell the story of life that seeds represent. The *Organic Seed Grower* is what we need to take back community control of seeds from those who have taken it from us.

--Tom Stearns, president, High Mowing Organic Seeds

About the Author: John Navazio is both the Senior Scientist for the Organic Seed Alliance and a Plant Breeding and Seed Specialist for Washington State University Extension. He trains farmers, university students, and others in organic seed production and on the fundamentals of on-farm plant breeding. His own breeding work has resulted in a number of new vegetable varieties with improved quality, flavor, and texture, as well as a greater ability to scavenge nutrients, compete with weeds, and resist heat and drought. John develops participatory breeding projects with farmers across North America to improve crop germplasm for regional seed independence. He is the author of *The Organic Seed Grower: A Farmer's Guide to Vegetable Seed Production*.