

Welcome to the webinar!

- The webinar will start at the top of the hour.
- Find a handout of the slides in the “handouts” section of your Gotowebinar control panel.
- To type in a question, use the question box on your control panel.
- The webinar is being recorded and you can find it in our archive within the next 2 weeks at <http://www.extension.org/pages/25242> and on the eOrganic YouTube channel, along with the other webinars in this series!


A banner for the Organic Seed Alliance. The top section has a brown background with a border of organic seeds. It features the "10th Anniversary 2003-2013" logo, the "ORGANIC seed ALLIANCE" text with a leaf icon, and the tagline "Advancing the ethical development and stewardship of the genetic resources of agricultural seed" along with the website "www.seedalliance.org". The bottom section has a black background with the title "Seed Quality, Harvesting Techniques and Equipment" in green, followed by the names of the speakers: "Micaela Colley and Laurie McKenzie, Organic Seed Alliance", "Keith Kisler, Finnriver Farm & Cidery", and "Sam McCullough, Nash's Organic Produce".

10th Anniversary 2003-2013

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Advancing the ethical development and stewardship of the genetic resources of agricultural seed

www.seedalliance.org

Seed Quality, Harvesting Techniques and Equipment

Micaela Colley and Laurie McKenzie, Organic Seed Alliance
Keith Kisler, Finnriver Farm & Cidery
Sam McCullough, Nash's Organic Produce





Today's Webinar:

Harvesting your seed crop

- When to harvest - *Assessing maturity*
- How to harvest – *Crop type, scale, equipment, conditions*
- What to do after harvest - *Post-harvest drying and handling*



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Seed Drop and Harvest



Seed Held in on Stalk or in Pod



Seeds that Shoot

Seed Held in Head



Seed Held in Bracts

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Wind Blown Seed



Seed Dropped when Mature



Seed in Fruit

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Seed Shattering Influences Harvest

<u>Family</u>	<u>Crop</u>	<u>Degree of Shattering</u>
Asteraceae	Lettuce	Significant
Alliaceae	Onion	Significant
Apiaceae	Carrot	Moderate
Brassicaceae	Broccoli/Cabbage/Kale	Moderate
Amaranthaceae	Beet/Spinach/Chard	Minimal
Fabaceae	Bean/Pea	Minimal
Poaceae	Corn	None
Cucurbitaceae	Squash/Melon/Cucumber	None
Solanaceae	Tomato/Pepper/Eggplant	None

Preparing To Harvest: When To Stop Watering







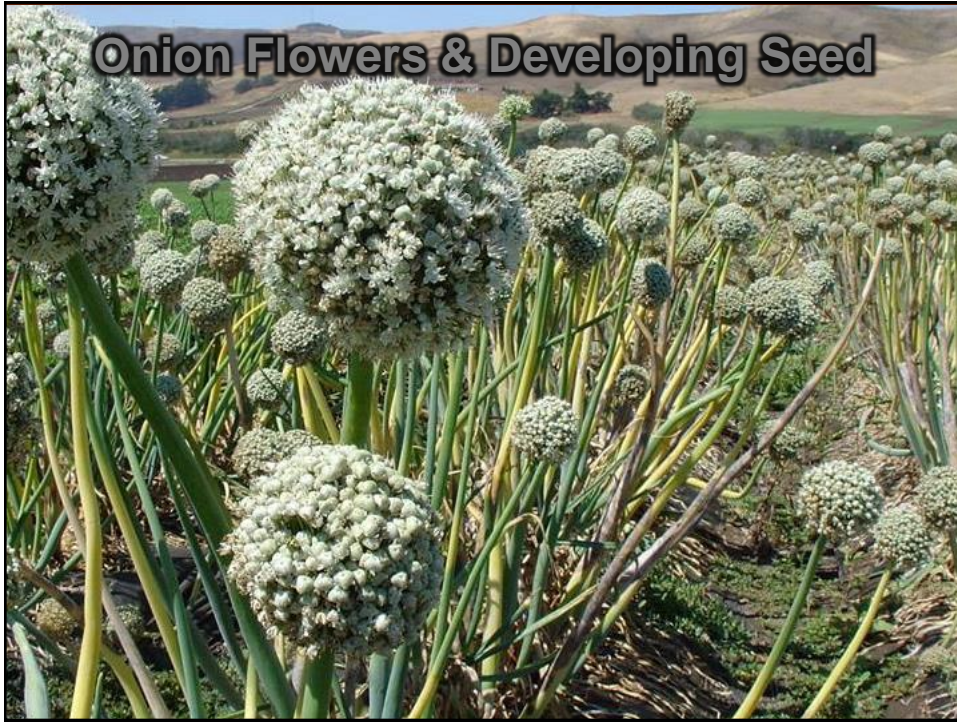
Broccoli: Long Harvest Window

Gauging Harvest By Plant Color



Undercutting Beans





**Green seed can be OK to harvest as long
as it's fully developed**



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**Harvest Fruits for Wet
Extraction at Full Maturity**



Harvest Techniques



- Cutting Plants
- Pulling Plants
- Bucket
- Hand Collection
- Tools, rakes, sticks
- Combines and large scale equipment



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Seed Crop Type

Dry Seeded

- Harvest like grains
- Need seasonal dry
- Low humidity environments best
- Susceptible to disease at maturity

Wet Seeded

- Harvest fruits
- Water extraction
- Higher humidity is tolerated & desirable
- Easier to avoid direct contact w/ diseases



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Cut and Windrow

- Allow to dry on a tarp and catch dropping seed
- Don't stack the crop too deep – must breath
- Porous groundcover crop can tolerate some precipitation
- Be sure to turn the crop
- Seed can be temporarily covered for protection from rain & wind



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Combining Barley



Plot Combine







All Crop



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Grain Crops – Keith Kisler

- Rye
- Rye – Vetch
- Wheat
- Barley
- Quinoa
- Buckwheat













Buckwheat



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Veg Crops - Sam McCullough

- Beets, Swiss Chard, Spinach
- Cabbage, Kale, Cauliflower
- Carrots
- Flint Corn



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Cauliflower Seed Harvesting



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Comparing Seeds



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Post Harvest Drying

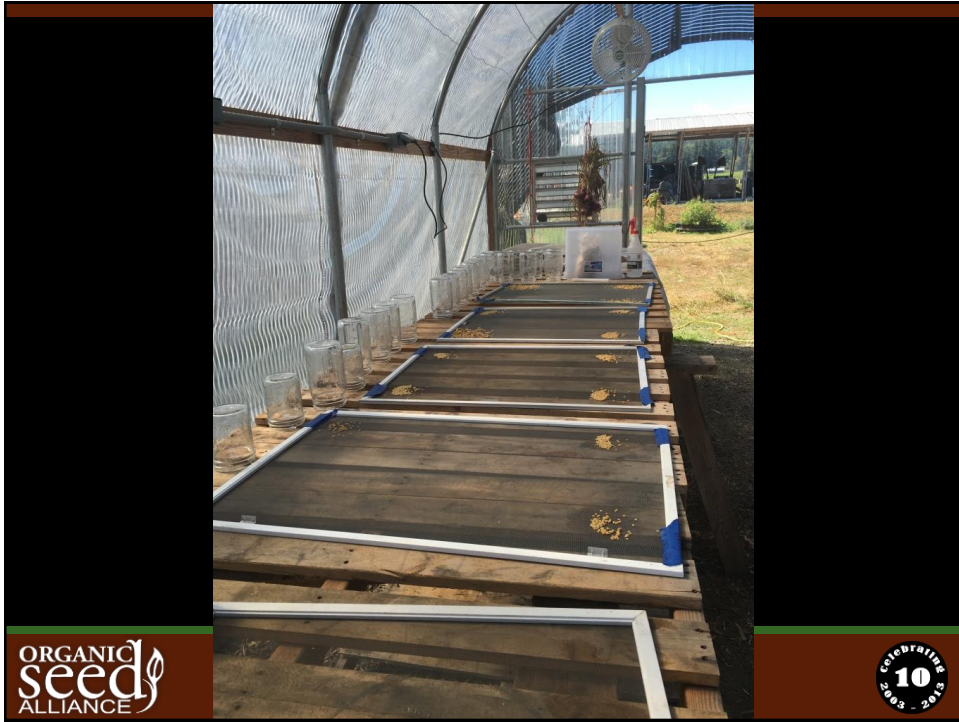


- Completes maturity
- Dries plant material for separation
- Covered space vs open field
- Techniques: breathable cloth, table, screens, fans, heat, bin dryer

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Bin Dryer





Moisture Meter



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- Have an organic farming question? Use the eXtension Ask an Expert service at <https://ask.extension.org/groups/1668/ask>
- We need your feedback! Please respond to an email survey about this webinar.
- Thank you for coming!

