

# Maine Organic Farmers & Gardeners Association

Common Ground Education Center

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**FREE**  
Take one!

## 2017 Calendar of Events\*

**January 10-12: Ag. Trades Show**, Augusta. Join MOFGA for MOFGA day Tuesday at the Ag. Trades Show. We will be offering multiple sessions throughout the day.

**February 11: Beginning Beekeeping**, Unity.

Our beekeeping short course will cover the essentials to get you going in the world of beekeeping.

**March 4:** 9am- 4pm- **Spring Growth Conference**, Unity.

Keynote speaker Will Brinton and a panel of farmers focus on soil microbiology.

**March 11: Organic Orcharding Workshop: Pruning**,

locations TBD. Learn to prune fruit trees to encourage vigorous growth, heavy fruit set, and quality fruit yield.

Workshop is geared towards beginners and experienced growers.

**March 25: Organic Orcharding Workshop:**

*Renovating Old Trees*, locations TBD. Do you have any old trees on your land that you would like to bring back into production? Attend this workshop and learn to renovate and upkeep your heritage trees.

**March 26: Seed Swap & Scion Exchange**, Unity.

*Special All-Day Event!* Gardeners and Orchardists are invited to bring their seeds, scionwood and cuttings to share and participate in educational workshops. Free!

**April 5:** 6-9 pm **Grow Your Own Organic Garden**, in locations throughout the state. An evening course designed to provide gardeners with essential skills and knowledge needed to make a transition from conventional to organic gardening.

**April 8: Organic Orcharding Workshop: Grafting Fruit Trees**, Unity or Mount Desert. Learn to propagate and reproduce your favorite fruit tree varieties. Participants will graft trees to take home and plant.

**April 15: Organic Orcharding Workshop: Orchardling 101.**

Join Michael Phillips, author of *The Apple Grower*, for a comprehensive exploration of organic disease and insect strategies.

**Weekly beginning in June: Farm Training Projects** in

locations around the State. Workshops give apprentices and other beginning, and aspiring farmers the chance to visit other farms, learn from farmers about their areas of expertise, and network.

**June 17: Farm & Homestead Day**, Unity. Come and learn all you need to know and more about living in rural Maine. Free!

**June 24: Organic Orcharding Workshop: Summer**

*Orchard Care*, location TBD, Learn tips and tricks to caring for your orchard through the summer and getting your orchard to a successful harvest in the fall.

**July 6: Poultry Processing**, Unity. Join MOFGA's livestock expert Diane Schivera and Jason and Carrie Tessier of Tessiers Farm as they teach you how to successfully and sanitarily process your own meat birds.

**August 5: Bud Grafting**, Monroe. Bud grafting is a great way to start your own fruit trees as well as many ornamentals. Join Seth Yentes and practice bud grafting in his nursery plot.

**August 18-20: Maine Apple Camp**, Liberty. Join a gathering of heirloom fruit experts, advocates, and farmers to share knowledge and build networks that can facilitate the rescue and conservation our horticultural heritage.

**August 19: Maine Axe and Saw Day**, Unity. Come learn about the history, making, use, and care of axes, crosscut saws, peaveys, and other vintage and modern non-motorized tools.

**September 22-24: The Common Ground Country Fair**, Unity. The Fair is MOFGA's premier event celebrating rural living. Three full days of educational talks and demonstrations, entertainment, delicious Maine-grown organic food and products from local artisans.

Want to volunteer? [FMI volunteers@mofga.org](mailto:FMIvolunteers@mofga.org)

**October 7-9: Nose to Tail Pork Processing**, Unity. This is one of our most popular workshops, covering all aspects of raising, humanely slaughtering, and processing pigs. Registration opens June 15th.

**October 15: Great Maine Apple Day**, Unity. Celebrate the history, tradition, and flavor of Maine apples with MOFGA.

**November 3-5: Farmer to Farmer Conference**, Northport. MOFGA's annual conference for farmers provides a great opportunity to talk about what works and what doesn't while learning new ideas from University faculty, fellow farmers, and others.

**November 16-19: Low Impact Forestry Workshops**, Unity. For people, beginning and experienced, to learn and practice sustainable woodlot management, and logging with animals and low-impact machinery.

**November 17-18: Chainsaw & Forestry Safety Courses**, Unity. *Level I* is a two-day course covering many aspects of chainsaw use including: the basics of saw mechanics, operation, maintenance, safety and an opportunity to learn and practice safe felling techniques. *Level II* is designed for the saw operator who has experience, but want to practice and improve upon his or her technique.

\* Subject to change: for complete event

details, fees and registration, please visit: [mofga.org](http://mofga.org) or call 207-568-4142.



First Friday of Every Month: 10am  
Tune in to  
**MOFGA's Common Ground Radio**  
An hour on local food and agriculture.  
89.9 FM or [weru.org](http://weru.org)