

Course Requirements

Please be aware that to participate fully you will need soil tests for a majority of your fields and greenhouses or tunnels. You will be asked to complete a course survey online. There will be required homework between classes to support group learning activities.

Course fee is \$150 per person for all 3 classes. Lunch and refreshments on each course day are included in the registration costs.

Registration Form

Name: _____

Farm/Organization: _____

Address: _____

City, State Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Registration Fees

people attending: ____ x \$150 fee = _____

Total Due: \$ _____

Check here if interested in the mentoring opportunities associated with this course-\$50

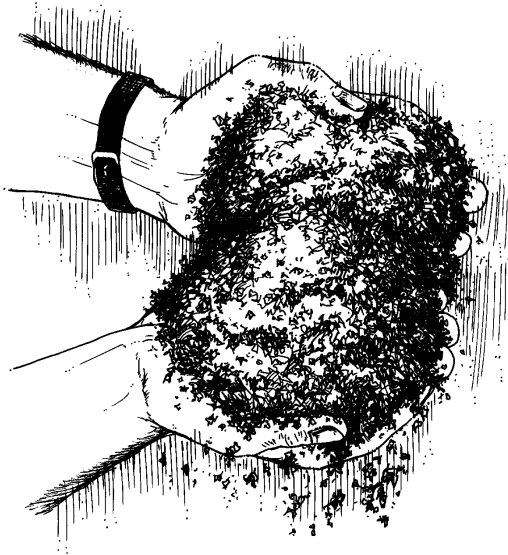
Registration and payment is due by Dec 11. Space is limited to 45 farmers and 5 people that work with farmers.

Please mail this form along with a check made payable to NOFA Vermont to:

NOFA Vermont
PO Box 697
Richmond, VT 05477

Questions? Call NOFA Vermont
802-434-4122 or email info@nofavt.org.

Digging Deep: An Advanced Soils Course for Vegetable Growers



January 5th, 19th, and February 9th
The Lake Morey Resort
Fairlee, Vermont



With Generous
Support From:
NORTHEAST
SARE
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Research & Education



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Richmond, VT 05477

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Richmond, VT

This course is designed for intermediate to advanced vegetable growers to help you develop a deeper understanding of how to manage soils and soil fertility on your farm.

Class One

Soil Testing Tools and Their Use

Tuesday, January 5th 8:30am-4:30pm

This class will explore soil fertility assessment tools available to growers. Speakers will discuss the integration of physical, chemical, and biological management practices to develop a systems approach to soil fertility management. Growers will solve real farm problems to develop an understanding of the tools available and how to use appropriate testing tools to ID problems and needs on their farm. Growers will work with their own soil greenhouse and compost tests.

Class Two

Using Soil Fertility Practices to Solve Problems on Your Farm

Tuesday, January 19th 8:30am-4:30pm

This class will help growers understand how to use soil fertility management tools and practices to meet physical, chemical, and biological needs of plants and solve problems on their farms. Tools and practices examined include fertilizers, amendments, tillage, cover crops, and crop rotations. Nutrient availability from organic materials and nutrient management tools available to growers will be discussed by our speakers. Experienced growers present what they have learned and problem-solving break out sessions will help growers determine how to best meet their crop's nutrient needs, both economically and environmentally.

Class Three

Putting a System Together on Your Farm

Tuesday, February 9th 8:30am-4:30pm

This class will instruct growers on creating a fertility management plan for their farms that addresses nutrient needs, using appropriate tools to address compaction, rotations and tillage. Growers will present their own systems for whole farm fertility management. Participants will bring plans and ideas to this session to be discussed with other growers to share insight on whole farm soil fertility planning using appropriate tools and practices they can afford.

Mentoring Opportunities

Up to 5 vegetable farmers will have the opportunity to work with a farmer-mentor on soil health and fertility issues. Mentors provide technical assistance in the areas of soil fertility management and crop production. The mentoring process will start with the first course and continue through the 2010 growing season. For more information contact NOFA Vermont.

Integrated Learning Courses

This soils course is one of four integrated learning courses for intermediate to advanced organic and sustainable vegetable producers being offered by NOFA Vermont through a Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education Program Grant. The other courses will be on marketing, on-farm energy, and pest (insects, diseases, and weeds) management. For more information contact NOFA Vermont, 802-434-4122, info@nofavt.org.

Speakers / Facilitators Include:

Caroline Alves, Soil Scientist, NRCS

Mimi Arnstein Wellspring Farm CSA, Marshfield VT

Hank Bissell Lewis Creek Farm, Starksboro, VT

Brian Caldwell Hemlock Grove Farm, Spencer, NY & Farm Education Coordinator, NOFA-NY

Heather Darby Crops and Soils Specialist, University of Vermont Extension

Laurie Drinkwater Associate Professor of Horticulture, Cornell University

Carla Fenner Land Treatment Planner, NRCS

Amanda Gervais Northwest Crops & Soils Education Coordinator, University of Vermont

Vern Grubinger Vegetable and Berry Specialist, University of Vermont Extension,

Wendy Sue Harper Vegetable and Fruit Technical Assistance Advisor, NOFA Vermont

Fred Magdoff Professor Emeritus, Ecological Soil Management, University of Vermont

Don Ross Research Associate Professor of Soil Science, University of Vermont

Reed Sims GIS Specialist, NRCS

Ellen Sirvet Soil Conservationist, NRCS

Tom Villars Soil Resource Specialist, NRCS

Ryan Voiland Red Fire Farm, Granby, MA

And more to be announced!

Many thanks to our collaborating partners:

Natural Resources Conservation Service—VT

University of Vermont

University of Vermont Extension