

VOICE OF THE FARMER

ORGANIC FOR ALL



Organic for All has developed a participatory, in-depth educational experience for underserved, small-scale farmers and the communities they support.

Our program promotes the indigenous knowledge and voices of farmers by respecting their unique culture and rich historic connections to the land. We assert that the inclusion of all farmers is critical for the growth of agroecology-organic farming practices, with wholistic benefits to our farmlands, environments and food sovereignty systems—all essential elements of the health and wellbeing of our farming communities.

Organic for All offers a range of capacity building programs dedicated to using a systems-approach centered around building community, growing healthy people, and truthfully sustaining our nation's economic equality. This newly implemented training and education project is designed to build capacity within underserved farming communities to increase opportunities for offering a path to organic farming systems and certification.

Voice of the Farmer is our report on Organic For All participatory learning sessions to support strengthening capacity with all farmers.

WELCOME TO



TOOLS FOR ORGANIC AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL SMALL FARMERS

Ron Gilmore, grower at Lola's Organic Farm

We started out 'certified organic' here in Glenwood, Georgia 14 years ago. And I'd like to introduce you to the kinds of tools that we use here on our organic farm.

At first, our soil had to be built up with various ingredients to grow cash crops. We incorporated cover crops like buckwheat, oats and clover to build up the organic matter.

This took about three years, and then we got connected with the National Resource

Conservation Service with programs for all farmers to transition from conventional to certified organic. When we started this farm, we were the only organic farm in this county, and our county ag extension agent was not very supportive of our needs.

To help out farmers like yourself, here are some healthy products and tools that offer valuable crop protection strategies for use on your farms that have proven successful for us over the years.

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TOOLS TO MAKE YOURSELF

Wire Cages.

Making a wire cage for growing your vegetables requires cutting a 6 foot section of 4 foot galvanized wire and tying the wire ends to close the wire circle into a cage. We use these to grow tomatoes, peppers and squash, and can move them around where we need them. (*see video for a demonstration*)

Bedding Hoop Bender.

You will save yourself a whole lot of money making them yourself over ordering these hoops pre-made. These hoops allow plastic protection to be installed over your bedding crops, allowing you to protect your pepper and other vegetable crops well into November. (*Please watch our videos:*)

<https://uacus.com/learning>

PRODUCTS TO USE

1. Diatomaceous Earth. On conventional farms where there are ants, they use some kind of synthetic chemical poison to get rid of them. We use Diatomaceous Earth instead. It's sold at Lowes and Tractor Supply. But what won't happen with Diatomaceous Earth, is that your pets won't get sick.

2. Milky Spore Powder. This are very helpful when you find little tunnels in your fields where moles live. And you don't want them in your fields digging up all your roots! By applying a teaspoon of it every 10 feet apart, this product kills the Japanese beetles that the moles are actually looking for. And in 3-4 months, I stopped seeing their tunnels underneath my fields.

3. Garlic Barrier®. We have problems with deer and rabbits and possum. Instead of chemicals, or an 8-foot fence or an electric fence, we use "Garlic

Barrier." Add 3 teaspoons of this organic product in a 2-gallon spray applicator and apply it after a rain or heavy dew. I spray it at night because the deer come out in the morning.

4. Azomite® Soil Amendment. Zinc, magnesium and trace minerals are not found in most fertilizers. These are essential minerals that your soil needs to grow your crops.

5. Organic Insecticides:

A. Azera®. A botanical insecticide derived from chrysanthemums, **B. TerraNeem®,** a component of neem seeds for pests like aphids, squash bugs, grasshoppers, and horn ringworms. Sprayed on early morning or night with two teaspoons mixed in a 2 gallon sprayer. **C.** For tomato production, use **Organic BT (Bacillus Thuringiensis)** insecticide.

All of these products are approved for use in organic production by OMRI (Organic Materials Review Institute).

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We invite you to work with us to create healthy pathways around healing our food, environment, and community through Indigenous, Agroecology-Organic farming systems practices and their benefits for all communities.

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For more information, visit our website: www.uacus.com