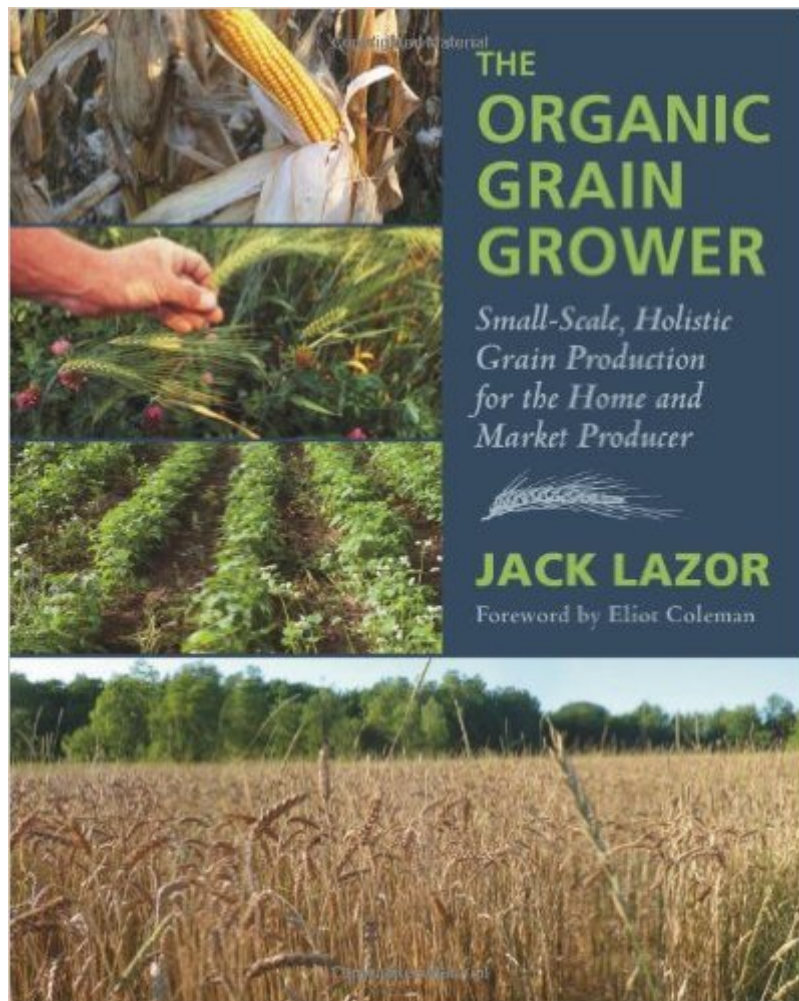


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The Organic Grain Grower: Small-Scale, Holistic Grain Production For The Home And Market Producer



Synopsis

The ultimate guide to growing organic grains on a small and ecological scale, *The Organic Grain Grower* is invaluable for both home-scale and commercial producers interested in expanding their resiliency and crop diversity through growing their own grains. Longtime farmer and organic pioneer Jack Lazor covers how to grow and store wheat, barley, oats, corn, dry beans, soybeans, pulse crops, oilseeds, grasses, nutrient-dense forages, and lesser-known cereals. In addition to detailed cultivation and processing information, Lazor argues the importance of integrating grains on the organic farm (not to mention for the local-food system) for reasons of biodiversity and whole farm management. Including extensive information on: The history of grain growing and consumption in North America The twenty-first century and the birth of the local-food movement Considering your farm's scale and climate Understanding soil fertility and structure Planting your crop (including spring vs. fall cereals and preparing your soil) The growing and ripening process (reproductive, milk, hard-and-soft dough stages) The grain harvest Preparing grain for sale, storage, or end use (drying, cleaning seed, grain handling) Seed breeding and saving Machinery, infrastructure, and processing (both home-scale tools and larger farm equipment) Grinding grains for livestock rations (including how to put together a ration based on protein content) and sample rations for dairy cows, pigs, and chickens Processing grains for human consumption Additional resources and information for new grain farmers, and more... Beginners will learn how to grow enough wheat for a year's supply of bread flour for their homestead, and farmers will learn how to become part of a grain co-op, working alongside artisan bakers and mills. Never before has there been a guide to growing organic grains applicable both for the home-scale and professional farming scale. This will be a classic for decades to come and a crucial addition to any farmer's, homesteader's, gardener's, agronomist's, or seed-saver's library.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Steeped in agricultural history and distilled in life experience, Jack Lazor gives us a book that covers everything you need to know to grow, store and use organic grains. The Organic Grain grower will be invaluable to everyone from home-style gardeners to full-scale farmers. Comprehensive enough to serve as a university textbook yet organized well enough to be a handy reference book - the first eight chapters cover general topics from soil fertility and planting to harvest and storage, while the remainder devotes a chapter to each grain covered (corn, wheat, barley etc.). Although the author's own personal odyssey is centered in Vermont, this should not deter would-be grain-growers in other regions. The unique set of circumstances in northern New England notwithstanding, it is the problem-solving and overall knowledge base which can be applied anywhere. Drawing from over four decades of experience, Mr. Lazor has acquired an immense amount of knowledge. Leaving no stone unturned, he has learned from all sources. That is to say, from university to field, library to farm: scientists, historians, farmers (conventional and organic alike), homesteaders, end-users (e.g. millers and bakers) and most of all, the school of hard knocks, experience itself, which he relates in a very engaging personable manner. Indeed, much of the book reads as if one is sitting down with the author in conversation. He shares all, good and bad alike, so that new grain growers are aware of strategies and pitfalls. His advice even extends into agronomics - acquiring everything from seed to used equipment at bargain prices hand in hand with overall farm management for fun and profit. What drives him is his passion - from enriching and tilling the soil to nurturing sprouting plants to combining amber waves of grain.

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