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Screen cleaning spinach seed by hand. Photo credit: Organic Seed Alliance
How to use this directory

We here at Organic Seed Alliance (OSA) put a lot of thought into designing this directory to be both a useful tool and visually pleasing. The directory is meant to help the reader easily find seed growers to connect with and be a joy to flip through.

Each profile in this guide is a snapshot of the grower's operation. You'll find information about climates, soil types, crops they grow, contact information, and more.

The guide also includes resources after the grower profile section that serve as quick-references to find additional information on seed availability and sourcing tools.

The nature of a printed directory is that it becomes dated quickly. We've created an online growers database to accompany this directory. You can access the database and apply to be listed at seedalliance.org/directory
Seed threshing and winnowing at San Diego Seed Company, in San Diego, CA. Photo credit: Brijette Peña.

Crimson Sweet watermelon seed processing at Redwood Seed in Manton, CA. Photo Credit: Kalan Redwood.

Bean thresher at Río Del Rey Beans in Valley Center, CA - Photo Credit Amber Keeney.
California Regional Seed

California is home to the largest organic specialty crop industry in the United States, representing more than 60 percent of the national acreage. Yet there is a large unmet demand from California’s organic specialty crop industry for seed produced in and for organic farms and adapted to the climates of the state.

In 2015 Organic Seed Alliance (OSA) received a grant from the California Department of Food and Agriculture to develop and expand the organic seed industry in the state. Since then Organic Seed Alliance has been actively working in California to develop regional seed systems. Because of the wide range of climates that encompass California, we knew that one of the keys to achieving success was to strengthen the regional seed systems. Each of California’s agricultural regions has its own climate, production practices, markets, demographics, and culture. Each of these regions requires a tailored approach.

We decided to focus on five geographically based hubs: North Coast, Northeast, Sierras, Bay Area / Central Coast, and South Coast. Each of these five seed hubs is overseen by a hub leader who is deeply involved with the seed movement in the area. Thanks to support from the USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, each of the hubs has a budget to collectively purchase seed cleaning equipment. A wide range of equipment has been acquired and has helped many seed producers expand their businesses.

These regional hubs are linked to the larger California network by several events and initiatives. The annual California Organic Seed Summit has been a key event in bringing together growers from across the state. Now in its 4th year, the California Organic Seed Summit has evolved and changed to meet the needs of the community who attends it. This gathering of California seed professionals, academics, and stakeholders acts as a springboard for regional development for the following year. It is a chance for growers to network with each other, connect with distributors, share information and strategies, and brainstorm to develop larger projects.

Participants in one of the first summits identified a need for a directory of California organic seed growers. The directory profiles California organic seed producers, the crops they grow, and an overview of their operation. The print portion of this project will expand in the future to include organic seed growers nationwide.

-Amber Keeney & Jared Zystro
Organic Seed Alliance
California Organic Seed Growers

- Homeward Bounty
- Redwood Seeds
- Open Circle Seeds
- Fruutilicious
- American Takii
- Wild Blue Ranch

San Diego Seed
- Company
Seed cleaning equipment in the mill at American Takii in Salinas, Ca. Photo credit: Steve Wiley

New Holland combine harvester in the field. Photo credit: American Takii

Sunflower seed crop in the field. Photo credit: American Takii

Sunflower windrows. Photo credit: American Takii

Seed storage. Photo credit: Steve Wiley
Steve Wiley | American Takii, Inc.

Location: Salinas, CA
Website: www.takii.com
Distribution: Wholesale and contract sales
Certifications: Certified Organic
Contact Info:
Steve Wiley
swiley@takii.com
831-756-7071

Seed Crops for purchase this year:
Early Mizuna Greens
New Red Fire Lettuce.

Open to contracting: Yes

About:
American Takii is the North American subsidiary of Takii & Co, Ltd of Kyoto, Japan. A family owned Vegetable & Flower Seed company that recently celebrated our 180th anniversary, we are State/County certified to handle organically produced seed. We offer many Asian Vegetable and Leafy Varieties that could be produced organically if demand exists.

Soil Types:
Soil types range depending on the area.

Climate:
Western Mediterranean Coastal, Inland and Desert

Scale:
200 acres

Crops:
Asteraceae
Brassicaceae
Zea Sonnabend | Fruitilicious
Shane Murphy | Tierra Madre

Location: Watsonville, CA

Distribution: Wholesale and contract sales

Certifications: Certified Organic

Contact Info:
Zea Sonnabend
fruitiliciousfarm@gmail.com
47 Linden Rd.
Watsonville, CA 95076
831-761-3213

Seed Crops for purchase this year:
Doran Round Butternut
Lower Salmon River squash
Tarahumara chia seed
Kurota Chantenay carrot
Oregon Delicious cantaloupe

Open to contracting: Yes

About:
We are experienced organic growers in the foothills of Watsonville with about 25 acres of fruit and 1 acre for vegetable seed. We specialize in large seeded crops and those with umbels, such as winter squash, sweet corn, carrots, beans.

Soil Types:
Range from sand to clay

Climate:
Inland coastal foothills. Warm summers, tempered by coastal influences. Long growing season with low heat units.

Scale:
26 acres

Crops:
Amaryllidaceae
Asteraceae,
Apiaceae
Brassicaceae
Cucurbitaceae
Solanaceae
Flowers/herbs
A rainbow of color and variety. Photo credit: Kate O’Brien-Mann

Brassicas drying down in windrows. Photo credit: Kate O’Brien-Mann

Homeward Bounty’s seed fields in Granada, CA. Photo credit: Kate O’Brien-Mann
Kate O'Brien-Mann | Homeward Bounty Farm

Location: Grenada, CA

Website: www.homewardbountyfarm.com

Distribution: Contract sales, online store front, local markets

Certifications: Certified Organic

Contact Info:
Kate O'Brien-Mann
homewardbounty@gmail.com
530-513-0647

Seed Crops for purchase this year:
Red Russian- Kale
Vates-Collards
Kweik, Butterhead Lettuce
Hungarian Bread Seed Poppy

Open to contracting: Yes

About:
On 2 acres, the farm produces annual vegetables for CSA and market, as well as seed crops on contract and for Homeward Bounty Seed sales. At the base of Mount Shasta, in the Shasta Valley, the farm has been running since 2013. Our arid, short growing season encourages testing for short season qualities and drought resistance of varieties in the summer and cold tolerance for over wintering.

Soil Types:
Clay-loam

Climate:
arid, high desert, short season
growing, hot summers, cold winters

Scale:
2 acres

Crops:
Amaryllidaceae
Asteraceae,
Brassicaceae
Solanaceae
Flowers/herbs
Fields at Open Circle Seeds. Photo credit: Gina Covina

Mountain Honey Melon. Photo credit: Gina Covina

Jimmy Nardello Sweet Frying Pepper. Photo credit: Gina Covina

White Nebuka Japanese Bunching Onion. Photo credit: Gina Covina

Delicata squash. Photo credit: Gina Covina

Crimson Sweet Watermelon. Photo credit: Gina Covina
Gina Covina | Open Circle Seeds

Location: Potter Valley, CA
Website: opencircleseeds.com

Certifications:
Certified organic
Safe Seed Pledge
Open Source Seed Initiative

Distribution: Online store front, local retail, select wholesale

Contact Info:
707-354-1556
info@opencircleseeds.com

Seed Crops for purchase this year:
Mountain Honey melon
Charlotte chard
Candystick Dessert Delicata squash
Success yellow straight-neck squash
Blue Kuri squash
Burpee’s Baby Butternut squash

Open to contracts: Yes

About:
We grow seed for varieties that perform exceptionally well in our location, with a short season and extremes of heat and cold (50 degree daily night/day difference). Seed production is integrated with our wholesale market farming business, which goes by the name Strong Roots. We love variety trials.

Soil Types:
Clay-loam

Climate:
Inland Mendocino County version of Mediterranean, hot summer days and cool nights

Scale:
5 acres

Crops:
Amaranthaceae
Amaryllidaceae
Asteraceae
Brassicaceae
Cucurbitaceae
Solanaceae
Dragon’s Tongue beans. Photo credit: Kalan Redwood

Early Jalapeño peppers. Photo credit: Kalan Redwood

An ocean of Orca Beans. Photo credit: Kalan Redwood

Processing watermelon seed. Photo credit: Kalan Redwood

Seed fields at Redwood Seed. Photo credit: Kalan Redwood
Kalan Redwood | Redwood Seeds

Location: Manton, CA

Website: www.redwoodseeds.net

Distribution: Our seeds are sold at approx 40 retail stores in northern CA including grocery stores and nurseries. We also sell on-line and at the Chico Farmer's Market.

Certifications:
- Certified Organic
- Safe Seed Pledge

Contact Info:
PO Box 431, Manton, CA 96059
530-524-5537
info@redwoodseeds.net

Seed Crops for purchase this year:
- Lebanese Summer squash

Open to contracting: Yes

About:
We operate a seed packet business, offering nearly 200 varieties annually. The majority of the seed we sell is grown on our farm. We work to maintain and improve open pollinated varieties with home gardeners in mind.

Soil Types:
- Red volcanic

Climate:
- Hot dry summer, wet cold winter
- USDA zone 8b

Scale:
- 1-2 acres annually

Crops:
- Amaranthaceae
- Amaryllidaceae
- Apiaceae
- Asteraceae
- Brassicaceae
- Cucurbitaceae
- Fabaceae
- Poaceae
- Solanaceae

Soil Types: Red volcanic
Climate: Hot dry summer, wet cold winter, USDA zone 8b
Scale: 1-2 acres annually
Crops: Amaranthaceae, Amaryllidaceae, Apiaceae, Asteraceae, Brassicaceae, Cucurbitaceae, Fabaceae, Poaceae, Solanaceae
Amaranth. Photo credit: Brijette Peña

Jalapeños. Photo credit: Brijette Peña

Areal shot of the seed field in San Diego, CA. Photo credit: Brijette Peña

A range of bean varieties available. Photo credit: Brijette Peña
Brijette Peña | San Diego Seed Company

Location: San Diego
Website: www.sandiegoseedcompany.com
Distribution: Online store front & local sales
Certifications: Safe Seed Pledge

Soil Types:
Clay

Climate:
Southern California inland and coastal

Contact Info:
Brijette Peña
info@sandiegoseedcompany.com
858-736-6872

Scale:
1 acre

Seed Crops for purchase this year:
Currently no bulk items available

Open to contracting: Yes

About:
We are a small urban company specializing in sourcing and growing vegetable, flower and herb seed. Space limits our production ability to smaller lots.

Crops:
Cucurbitaceae
Fabaceae
Solanaceae
John DeRosier | Wild Blue & Kari Stettler Ranch

Location: San Luis Obispo County

Website: www.wildblueranch.com

Distribution: Local retail, contract sales, and wholesale

Certifications: Certified Organic

Contact Info:
john@wildblueranch.com
805-712-3399

Seed Crops for purchase this year:
Currently no bulk items available

Open to contracting: Yes

About: John and Kari are passionate about holistic land management, organic agriculture and sustainability. John has been dry farming Organic field crops and orchards and growing small to large scale vegetable crops Organically and Biodynamically for the past 20 years. He is an accomplished seeds-man, owns his own equipment and cleans and processes his own and others seeds. John and Kari are transitioning their farm, With the Grain, to Wild Blue Ranch; they are expanding their range to include more livestock for greater bio-diversity and ecological impact. Some of their favorite crops are edible seeds, including grains, legumes and oil seeds and medicinal herbs.
Seed Crops Available in 2018
Alphabetical by Crop Family

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop Family</th>
<th>Crop Name</th>
<th>Seed Company</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amaranthaceae</td>
<td>Charlotte Chard</td>
<td>Open Circle Seed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apiaceae</td>
<td>Kurota Chantenay Carrot</td>
<td>Fruitilicious / Tierra Madre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asteraceae</td>
<td>Kweik Butterhead Lettuce</td>
<td>Homeward Bounty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New Red Fire Lettuce</td>
<td>American Takii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brassicaceae</td>
<td>Early Mizuna Greens</td>
<td>American Takii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vates Collards</td>
<td>Homeward Bounty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Red Russian Kale</td>
<td>Homeward Bounty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cucurbitaceae</td>
<td>Baby Butternut Squash</td>
<td>Open Circle Seeds</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Blue Kuri Squash</td>
<td>Open Circle Seeds</td>
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<td>Doran Round Butternut Squash</td>
<td>Fruitilicious / Tierra Madre</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lower Salmon River Squash</td>
<td>Fruitilicious / Tierra Madre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mountain Honey Melon</td>
<td>Open Circle Seeds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oregon Delicious Melon</td>
<td>Fruitilicious / Tierra Madre</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Success Yellow Straight-neck Squash</td>
<td>Open Circle Seeds</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lebanese Summer Squash</td>
<td>Redwood Seeds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other/Flower/Herb</td>
<td>Hungarian Bread-seed Poppy</td>
<td>Homeward Bounty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tarahumara Chia</td>
<td>Fruitilicious / Tierra Madre</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Seed Growers
### Alphabetical by Crop Family

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family</th>
<th>Seed Growers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Amaranthaceae (spinach/beet/chard etc) | Homeward Bounty Farm  
Open Circle Seeds  
Wild Blue Ranch |
| Amaryllidaceae (leek/onion etc) | Fruitilicious / Tierra Madre  
Open Circle Seeds  
Wild Blue Ranch |
| Apiaceae (carrot/celery/parley/parsnip, etc) | Fruitilicious / Tierra Madre  
Wild Blue Ranch |
| Asteraceae (lettuce/chicory etc) | American Takii  
Fruitilicious / Tierra Madre  
Homeward Bounty Farm  
Open Circle Seeds  
Wild Blue Ranch |
| Brassicaceae (mustards/radish/Asian greens etc) | American Takii  
Fruitilicious / Tierra Madre  
Homeward Bounty Farm  
Open Circle Seeds |
| Cucurbitaceae (cucumber/melon/squash etc) | Fruitilicious / Tierra Madre  
Open Circle Seeds  
Redwood Seeds |
| Fabaceae (bean/pea etc) | Redwood Seeds  
Wild Blue Ranch |
| Solanaceae (eggplant/pepper/tomato etc) | Fruitilicious / Tierra Madre  
Homeward Bounty Farm  
Open Circle Seeds  
Redwood Seeds |
| Poaceae (sweet corn, grain, etc.) | Wild Blue Ranch |
| Other (Flowers & Herbs) | Fruitilicious / Tierra Madre  
Homeward Bounty Farm  
Open Circle Seeds  
Wild Blue Ranch |
Resources

Online Seed Grower Directory
seedalliance.org/directory

Organic Seed Finder
organicseedfinder.org

Publications & Educational Resources
seedalliance.org/all-publications
articles.extension.org/pages/25242/webinars-by-eOrganic

Upcoming Seed Events
seedalliance.org/events
Organic Seed Alliance
California Regional Support Team

Jared Zystro
Steve Peters
Amber Keeney
Leyla Cabugos