

# History

Formed in 1990, The Northeast Organic Farming Association of Rhode Island (NOFA/RI) is an organization of farmers, gardeners, eaters and environmentalists working to promote organic farming and organic land care practices. NOFA/RI fosters a healthy relationship with the natural world through educational workshops, advocacy and participation in local and regional events.

NOFA/RI works to increase the acres of sustainably and organically managed land and to provide access to local, organic food for all Rhode Islanders. NOFA/RI is affiliated with six other NOFA chapters through the NOFA Interstate Council.

# Organic Agriculture

The USDA National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) defines organic agriculture as “an ecological production management system that promotes and enhances biodiversity, biological cycles and soil biological activity. It is based on minimal use of off-farm inputs and on management practices that restore, maintain or enhance ecological harmony. The primary goal of organic agriculture is to optimize the health and productivity of interdependent communities of soil life, animals and people.”

(NOSB, 1997)

Learn more at [nofari.org](http://nofari.org)

# Education

NOFA/RI offers education and outreach to farmers, gardeners and eaters promoting organic farming and land care practices.

## CRAFT Workshops

The Collaborative Regional Alliance for Farmer Training (CRAFT) workshop series shares farmer experiences and best practices between farmers, farm workers, apprentices and gardeners. These workshops are free.

## Advanced Grower Workshops

Farmers share their expertise in raising specialty crops, greenhouse management, soil fertility and more. These classroom-based workshops are for farmers, farm workers, apprentices and gardeners at a modest fee.

## Organic Farm Advisors

This program provides free technical guidance to farmers wishing to implement organic practices. Experienced organic farmers mentor new, transitioning farmers or growers who wish to produce their crops in a more sustainable manner. Topics include:

- Farm and garden planning
- Marketing, business planning, record keeping
- Soil building, raised bed production
- Cover crops and crop rotation
- Pest and disease management
- Greenhouse, high & low tunnel growing
- Safe tractor, tool and implement use
- Salad green production
- Weed control
- Post-harvest handling and marketing
- Organic certification and NRCS assistance applications



# NOFA/RI Membership



## NOFA/RI

247 Evans Road, Chepachet, RI 02814

Phone: (401) 369-3303

[nofari.org](http://nofari.org)

## Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA)

The Northeast Organic Farming Association is a non-profit organization of over 5,600 farmers, gardeners, landscape professionals and consumers working to promote healthy food, organic farming practices and a cleaner environment.

## The NOFA Interstate Council

The Northeast Organic Farming Association is an affiliation of seven state chapters:

- Connecticut
- Massachusetts
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- New York
- Rhode Island
- Vermont

The NOFA Interstate Council provides coordination between the chapters, conducts the annual NOFA Summer Conference and is the umbrella organization for NOFA chapter projects like the Northeast Interstate Organic Certification Committee. All seven state chapters offer educational conferences, workshops, farm tours and printed materials to educate farmers, gardeners, consumers and land care professionals.

## The Natural Farmer

Our quarterly regional newspaper features in depth stories about organic certification, growing techniques and environmental policy affecting farmers, gardeners and consumers. Read about organic markets, tips for organic gardening and education opportunities.



Photo by Evgenia Yaroslavleva

## Membership Benefits

1. Satisfaction of supporting local, organic agriculture and a sustainable food system
2. Free Admission to our *CRAFT Workshops* for farmers and gardeners
3. Discount admission to *NOFA Winter Conference*
4. Discount admission to the *NOFA Summer Conference*
5. Access to farm mentors through our *Organic Farm Advisor* program
6. Discount on *Accredited Organic Land Care Training*
7. Subscription to *The Natural Farmer*, our regional quarterly newspaper
8. Biweekly *NOFA/RI enews*
9. 10% discount on compost at *Earth Care Farm*
10. 10% discount at *the Good Earth Organic Gardening Center*
11. *Equipment Sharing* - pipe bender for High Tunnel or Low Tunnel hoop production
12. Free postings on our *Help Wanted* and *Classified* web pages and in our enews
13. Discounts on organic farm supplies with the *NOFA Spring Bulk Order*
14. Current Business Members build credibility with the *NOFA/RI Logo* on their website and print materials.
15. Business Members may market their events and programs through our online calendar partnership with *What Grows On In Rhode Island!*

## NOFA/RI

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I am available to volunteer:

- Lead a workshop
- Mentor other growers
- Staff an informational booth
- Prepare mailings
- Assist with outreach
- Post events on online calendars
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Membership Level

- Student \$20  
School Name: \_\_\_\_\_
- Senior (over age 65) \$20
- Individual \$30
- Family \$40
- Business \$50
- Additional Donation: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to NOFA/RI and mail to

**NOFA/RI**

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