

Selling MOFGA Certified Organic Seedlings

by Jacomijn Schravasande-Gardei, Associate Director of Crops

If you want to sell seedlings produced on your farm as MOFGA certified organic, please note the following:

- Seedlings should be listed on your organic product verification list.
- Anyone selling plants must have a nursery license from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF).

Seedlings Listed on Your Organic Product Verification

Please check your current organic product verification to verify that seedlings are listed on it. The product verification can list: vegetable seedlings, herb seedlings, annual flower seedlings/bedding plants, and perennial flower seedlings/bedding plants. If they are not listed and you intend to commercially sell them, please contact your organic specialist to add these to your product verification. You will also need to indicate if you want MOFGA to publish that you are selling seedlings (can be done on your Crop List or by indicating this to your specialist). MOFGA publishes a handy seedling map (mofga.org/mofga-seedling-map) for customers to see where they can buy MOFGA certified organic seedlings.

Nursery License Requirement from the DACF

In order to sell seedlings in Maine commercially, you will need a current and valid nursery license from the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF). The DACF defines nursery stock as woody plants (trees, shrubs, vines, etc.) and herbaceous plants (bulbs, annual perennials, vegetable seedlings, houseplants, etc.). A license is issued for each calendar year and costs \$25 per license for most businesses, or \$5 per license for those selling less than \$500 in plant material a year and having less than 150 square feet of retail sales area. The DACF reserves the right to and may inspect your farm. Businesses that are found selling plants and have failed to obtain a license may be subject to a fine of up to \$500. For more information please visit the DACF website at: maine.gov/dacf/php/horticulture/licensing_and_inspection.shtml.



Farmer Programs at MOFGA

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Livestock and Pasture Management: Are you raising livestock of any kind and looking for advice on animal health and husbandry, pasture management, livestock handling, or food safety? Let us help you find the practices that work for you and your animals.

Jacki Perkins, Organic Dairy and Livestock Specialist.

Areas of expertise: Livestock, pastures, grain, MOFGA's Shared Use Farm Equipment program.

Email: jperkins@mofga.org. Phone: 802-595-9866.

Crop and Soil Management: Are you struggling with crop planning, diagnosing or treating pests or diseases, or curious about soil health or conservation practices? Let us help you build the cropping system that works for you and your goals.

Caleb Goossen, Crop and Conservation Specialist.

Areas of expertise: Organic growing, soil health, PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) and/or National Organic Program (NOP), Pest Report.

Email: cgoossen@mofga.org. Phone: 207-568-6029.

Mariam Taleb, Organic Crop Production Specialist.

Areas of expertise: Insect and other arthropod pests, invasive species, MOFGA/Maine Farmland Trust PFAS programs, alternative farm models, community food system participation.

Email: mtaleb@mofga.org. Phone 207-505-8471.

To reach out for assistance, fill out an intake form at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScXK_BRjQ9Z-l76UpY9YZaa2poA1I6Xr9QRtu4nTooV7qFt1ww/viewform or contact any one of the farmer programs staff members above!



MOFGA Events and Trainings

Throughout the year, MOFGA hosts hundreds of events, meetings, workshops, conferences, dinners and festive gatherings.

Check the MOFGA Events calendar often for updates including farmer training programs, livestock management, organic pest management, orcharding and community events as well as MOFGA's signature annual events including the Common Ground Country Fair to be held September 23, 24 and 24, 2023. <https://www.mofga.org/trainings>.