

**Organic Seed Partnership
USDA - ARS,
Plant Genetic Resources
Unit
2008 Annual Report**

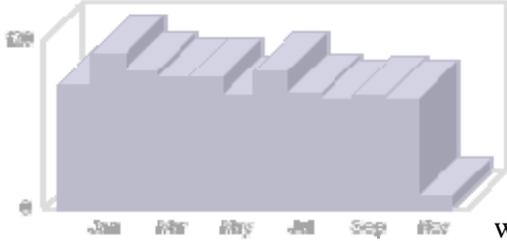
**Dr. Larry D. Robertson
Teri L. Balch**

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Organic Seed Partnership Website:

The USDA - ARS, PGRU has been responsible for the creation and maintenance of the Organic Seed Partnership’s website since the OSP’s commencement in 2005. Teri Balch has been updating the website with current events as well as updates on breeding projects and trials when the information is provided by the appropriate partners. We continue to send out periodic e-mails to hubs to try to get updated information to put on the website. Additional information will be added to the website once 2008 annual reports are reviewed and made available to Teri in Adobe PDF form.



Since its commencement, the Organic Seed Partnership website has been hit more than 4,800 times in 81 different countries. In 2008, there were 985 unique visitors that used our website as a resource, slightly down from the 1,234 unique visitors in 2007. The website was viewed most frequently in July and August.

This statistic is valuable in that critical updates should be in place before that time. The most frequent browser used is Internet Explorer (59% down from 66% in 2007), followed by Firefox (26%) and Safari (15%). Windows remains the top operating system used to view the website at 96%. Google is by far the search engine preferred by most visitors at 89% usage.

Once final reports have been collected from the Organic Seed Partnership’s main partners and hubs, they will be available for download from the website. In addition to final reports, vegetable variety trial results, farmer – led plant breeding efforts and seed production guidelines will be available to stakeholders.

<u>Event Title</u>	<u>Classification</u>	<u>City, State</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>No. of Participants</u>
Stone Barns Farm Seed Production Demo	Seed Production Demonstrations	Tarrytown, NY	10/11/2007	n/a
Seed Production Lecture and Hands-On Demonstrations	Seed Production Presentation and Demonstration	Shelburne, VT	11/9/2007	15
WVSU Seed Production and Plant Breeding Workshop	Seed Production Workshop	West Virginia State University, Institute, WV	7/30/08	15

Table 1: PGRU Contributing Events - 2008

3rd Educational Farm Symposium
Shelburne, VT
November 9, 2007



Figure 25: The Coach Barn at Shelburne Farms

Shelburne Farms and the Farm-Based Education Association co-hosted the 3rd Educational Farm Symposium at Shelburne Farms in Shelburne, Vermont. Over 175 people gathered together to network with colleagues, be inspired by success stories, and gain new knowledge that they took back to their farm education programs! The goal of the symposium was to provide professional development and support to the farm-based education community through workshops, field trips, networking time, evening entertainment and hearty local food for three days of learning and fun.

Teri Balch and Bill Garman went to represent the Organic Seed Partnership for a 2 hour presentation on “Keeping The Seeds in Your Hands”. This presentation gave basic information on PSI and OSP as well as enlightened the 15 in attendance on the uses of the Germplasm Resources Information Network (GRIN). Teri also discussed the basics of seed saving and seed production. Once the first hour of the presentation was concluded, the participants ventured outside for the second half of the lecture by Bill Garman. Bill continued to train the participants for the next hour in wet and dry seed processing; including mechanical and manual cleaning techniques. Bill demonstrated seed cleaning with onion and *Brassica* species.



Figure 26: Bill Garman demonstrating seed cleaning.



Figure 27: Bill Garman demonstrating the Belt Thresher.

West Virginia State University Seed Production and Plant Breeding Workshop
Institute, WV
July 31, 2008

West Virginia State University (WVSU), a historically black university has evolved into a fully accessible, racially diverse, and multi-generational institution that offers baccalaureate, associate, and graduate degrees. The USDA – ARS, Plant Genetic Resources Unit’s seed production staff traveled to WVSU to conduct a full day of Seed Production and Plant Breeding lecture and hands-on training for an enthusiastic group of local farmers, extension agents and graduate and undergraduate students.

The day began at the Bio-Fuel Complex located on the WVSU Agriculture and Environmental Research Station. Dr. Barbara Liedl, PhD. welcomed approximately 15 participants and introduced herself, George Moriarty (Cornell University, Department of Plant Breeding and Genetics), William Garman, John Oughterson and Teri Balch (USDA – ARS, PGRU). After registration and introductions, John Oughterson led the group to the Wet Vegetable Seed Production Demonstration followed by a dry seed processing demonstration lead by Teri Balch and William Garman. North Carolina organic farmer, Doug Jones brought several different dry seeded crops to be cleaned and used for demonstration purposes as did several other local West Virginia farmers.

After the seed processing demonstrations, George Moriarty and Barbara Liedl led the participants to the



Figure 1: Bill Garman (USDA - ARS, PGRU) demonstrating dry seed production.



Figure 2: G. Moriarty demonstrating plant breeding techniques.

plant breeding field plots while the USDA’s seed production team worked together to thresh seed brought by the local growers. Moriarty and Liedl lectured about plant breeding and demonstrated various types of hand pollination techniques to conclude the morning session.

The afternoon session was moved inside in order to alleviate the humidity of the morning sessions. Teri Balch presented on accessing the Germplasm Resources

Information Network and on Small Scale Seed Production. George Moriarty presented on the

Basics of Plant Breeding. After the presentations; the workshop ended with growers, extension agents and students asking questions from the panel of experts.

Additional Photos from the WVSU Workshop:



Figure 4: wet seed processing demo.



Figure 3: W. Garman air column demo.



Figure 5: Doug Jones getting a close up on Cucurbita pollination.



Figure 6: G. Moriarty demonstrating pollinations.



Figure 7: Hands - On plant breeding.