What past students say

“Terrific course…very helpful and motivating. I felt the first day easily paid for the tuition.”

“The grower-instructors were all fantastic; the diversity in their farm sizes and modes of farming and marketing were excellent.”

“The most useful aspect of the course was all the real-life experiences of the instructors and how farming has affected their lives.”

“The course notebook has proven to be a very useful resource. I’ve used it again and again.”

Location

The 2010 school will be held on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus. Directions, parking information and a map will be sent after you enroll.

Meals and lodging

Lunches and a snack are provided and coffee, tea and water will be available throughout the day. Lodging arrangements must be made on your own. Options include:

On Campus:
- Lowell Hall, (866) 301-1753
- Wisconsin Union, (608) 262-1583
- Short Course Dorm (space limited), (608) 262-2270

Near Campus: (some with free shuttle service)
- Doubletree, (608) 251-5511
- Best Western, (608) 233-8778
- Madison Youth Hostel, (608) 441-0144

Check the internet for other options.

Application deadline

Please sign up by January 4th.

For more information

Contact John Hendrickson, (608) 265-3704 or jhendric@wisc.edu

The 2010 Wisconsin School for Beginning Market Growers

Emphasizing organic production methods and direct marketing

Helping you get started in small-scale vegetable production and marketing

Intensive three-day school demonstrates what it takes to set up and run a successful organic market garden or small farm. Topics include:

- soil fertility
- greenhouses
- pest management
- tools and equipment
- post-harvest handling
- marketing
- and more!

January 15, 16, 17, 2010
9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday
8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Sunday

University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems
You bring your gardening background, interest and hopes for your own market garden or small vegetable farm. We expose you to what you need to know and plan for as you set seeds and grow.

What do we offer?

- A unique program that combines knowledge from experienced growers and UW faculty
- Opportunities to understand basic concepts in organic market farming and what it takes to organize and succeed in this type of business
- Extended time with three experienced growers, each offering unique perspectives, invaluable tips and practical know-how
- A chance to network and learn from fellow market gardeners, farmers and entrepreneurs
- In addition to this course, we occasionally offer separate, focused workshops.
  For details, contact John Hendrickson, jhendric@wisc.edu or (608) 265-3704.

2010 instructors
Sharing their expertise and enthusiasm this year are Michael Racette of Spring Hill Community Farm, Tricia Bross of Luna Circle Farm and Jenny Bonde of Shooting Star Farm. These accomplished organic growers are all excellent speakers. Each will bring a unique perspective as well as some of their favorite tools for our popular show-and-tell tables. Their marketing strategies include farmers’ markets, community supported agriculture (CSA) and selling to restaurants and retail stores.

The growers will be joined by additional speakers who will help cover topics such as insects, economics and more!

Is this workshop right for you?
The course attracts a variety of people. Some want to start small market gardens while others see this as a part-time job on a few acres. Other participants aspire to grow 10 or more acres of vegetables for retail and wholesale markets. The grower-instructors, whose farms range in scale and marketing strategy, meet the diverse interests and needs brought by participants. To learn more about whether this class is a good fit with your experience and goals, contact John Hendrickson at the Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems, UW-Madison, (608) 265-3704 or jhendric@wisc.edu.