



# The Organic Grain Grower: Small-Scale, Holistic Grain Production for the Home and Market Producer

By Jack Lazor

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## **The Organic Grain Grower: Small-Scale, Holistic Grain Production for the Home and Market Producer** By Jack Lazor

The ultimate guide to growing organic grains on a small and ecological scale, *The Organic Grain Grower* is invaluable for both home-scale and commercial producers interested in expanding their resiliency and crop diversity through growing their own grains. Longtime farmer and organic pioneer Jack Lazor covers how to grow and store wheat, barley, oats, corn, dry beans, soybeans, pulse crops, oilseeds, grasses, nutrient-dense forages, and lesser-known cereals. In addition to detailed cultivation and processing information, Lazor argues the importance of integrating grains on the organic farm (not to mention for the local-food system) for reasons of biodiversity and whole farm management. Including extensive information on:

- The history of grain growing and consumption in North America
- The twenty-first century and the birth of the local-food movement
- Considering your farm's scale and climate
- Understanding soil fertility and structure
- Planting your crop (including spring vs. fall cereals and preparing your soil)
- The growing and ripening process (reproductive, milk, hard-and-soft dough stages)
- The grain harvest
- Preparing grain for sale, storage, or end use (drying, cleaning seed, grain handling)
- Seed breeding and saving
- Machinery, infrastructure, and processing (both home-scale tools and larger farm equipment)
- Grinding grains for livestock rations (including how to put together a ration based on protein content) and sample rations for dairy cows, pigs, and chickens
- Processing grains for human consumption
- Additional resources and information for new grain farmers, and more...

Beginners will learn how to grow enough wheat for a year's supply of bread flour for their homestead, and farmers will learn how to become part of a grain co-op,

working alongside artisan bakers and mills. Never before has there been a guide to growing organic grains applicable both for the home-scale and professional farming scale. This will be a classic for decades to come and a crucial addition to any farmer's, homesteader's, gardener's, agronomist's, or seed-saver's library.

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## **The Organic Grain Grower: Small-Scale, Holistic Grain Production for the Home and Market Producer** By Jack Lazor **Bibliography**

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

#### ***Mother Earth News-***

*"The Organic Grain Grower* is the best resource we've seen for small-scale grain growers everywhere. The book covers necessary equipment and cultivation techniques for many types of crops: corn, wheat, barley, oats, rye, spelt and triticale, buckwheat, soy, dry beans, and oilseeds. Lazor describes himself as 'a grain-processing nut,' and his passion comes alive in this fine guidebook's depth of detail."

"Jack Lazor writes about grain growing with passion and experience. With this wealth of background and insight, readers will want to do it themselves, and with the lode of detailed information Jack provides, they will be able to do so. Although his focus is on medium-scale commercial production, many of the tips he shares are applicable to the backyard grain-grower as well."--**Will Bonsall, Khadighar Farm; director, Scatterseed Project**

#### ***ForeWord Reviews-***

"Longtime farming pioneer Jack Lazor has progressed from a back-to-the-land idealist to the co-manager, with his wife, of a profitable dairy and grain business, Butterworks Farm in Westfield, Vermont. In *The Organic Grain Grower*, he shares his considerable experience and expertise with new generations of holistic home and market grain producers.

Lazor's book starts with the history of grain production in his local region; early settlers found that northern New England offered a good climate for wheat, vital for animal fodder and bread making. Today, "the rebirth of grain growing" is not just common sense, but fun, Lazor enthusiastically reports. He takes readers through soil fertility and tillage, to the crucial matter of storage ("mice ... have an uncanny ability to ... burrow into bags that you can't see from the outside of the pile"), drying, screening, grinding, and grading. He recommends equipment, including less expensive "retired" machinery. Grains covered are corn, wheat, barley, oats, rye, spelt, triticale, buckwheat, and flax, plus soybeans and other legumes.

The book is very well organized, including a large section of clear, helpful photos. Though he is not averse to employing newfangled machinery if it does the job well, Lazor takes pride in using older farming equipment that is less complicated than modern counterparts, and some examples of these are illustrated.

*The Organic Grain Grower* is more than 500 pages, with a colorful, informative cover. Anyone seriously considering growing grain for animal feed, human consumption, or sale will find value in this manual. It would also be beneficial for those interested in any aspect of organic farming, since the sound advice given for grains could apply to any crop.

The foreword by author Eliot Coleman (*The Winter Harvest Handbook*) praises Lazor as the person “who inspired the movement” back to the “small farm’s grain heritage.” Lazor is as handy with a pen as with a plow, making even grain diseases sound interesting (“there is nothing like a mid-June thunderstorm to set up wheat plants for an invasion of … rust”). His flowing style demonstrates both hard knowledge and old world graces, as he modestly expresses the hope that the book “will help people avoid some of the mistakes that I have made.”

Another outstanding offering from Chelsea Green Publishing, Lazor’s guide will doubtless plant the seeds of inspiration among beginners and old hands alike as they tackle the complexities of grain growing and organic agriculture, and will do its part to propagate more general interest in the subject.”

“*The Organic Grain Grower* is quite possibly the most complete and extensive text ever written on grain production in the Northeast. Jack Lazor’s deep passion and knowledge creates an astounding story, and he shares his wisdom and experience generously. If you have ever wanted to grow grain, this is a book to own and cherish.”--**Dr. Heather Darby, University of Vermont Extension Agronomist**

“Jack writes from the top of a mountain?the mountain of his life. His long years of experience are longer than his very beard, and the wisdom and distillation of his farming life are written here with clarity and graceful articulation. As he says in the book, ‘people are hungry for meaning as well as food.’ In this classic book, Jack provides not only the meaning, but also the methods required to succeed as a small-scale grower of organic grains.”--**Jeffrey Hamelman, director, King Arthur Flour Bakery, and author of *Bread: A Baker’s Book of Techniques and Recipes***

“Given our industrial agriculture, most of us assume that grain can only be grown in huge monocultures devoted to producing as much as possible, unmindful of the quality. But in *The Organic Grain Grower*, Jack Lazor provides us with a practical and attractive alternative. As a farmer he has demonstrated that one can provide an emerging market with a diversity of superior quality grains, grown on a small scale, using heirloom varieties and modest investment. This book is (as Eliot Coleman puts it) “like acquiring hundreds of years of knowledge in one book.”--**Frederick Kirschenmann, author of *Cultivating an Ecological Conscience***

“I believe I can safely say, without losing any money, that if you know of one fact truly necessary to growing grains organically in the United States that is not in this book, I’ll pay you five bucks out of my own pocket. Plus there’s a whole bunch of stuff about how to process and use grains in the barn or on the table that I have not found all in one place before.”--**Gene Logsdon, author of *Small-Scale Grain Growing***

About the Author

Jack Lazor is co-owner of Butterworks Farm in Westfield, VT, with his wife, Anne, and cofounder of the Northern Grain Grower's Association. Jack has been growing organic grains in the mountains of Vermont's Northeast Kingdom since 1975 and is considered a leader in the movement for growing grains in cold climates. Lazor grows grains both for human consumption and for feed for their herd of Jersey cows, including corn, oats, barley, soybeans, legumes, alfalfa, and oilseeds, such as flax and sunflower. Butterworks Farm also produces organic Jersey milk yogurt, buttermilk, sweet Jersey cream, cheddar cheese, and grain products. He is the recipient of many agricultural awards.

## Users Review

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#### **Freida Gilbert:**

The book The Organic Grain Grower: Small-Scale, Holistic Grain Production for the Home and Market Producer make one feel enjoy for your spare time. You can utilize to make your capable considerably more increase. Book can for being your best friend when you getting anxiety or having big problem together with your subject. If you can make reading through a book The Organic Grain Grower: Small-Scale, Holistic Grain Production for the Home and Market Producer to be your habit, you can get more advantages, like add your own personal capable, increase your knowledge about many or all subjects. It is possible to know everything if you like open up and read a e-book The Organic Grain Grower: Small-Scale, Holistic Grain Production for the Home and Market Producer. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science e-book or encyclopedia or other people. So , how do you think about this publication?

#### **Chad Wood:**

This book untitled The Organic Grain Grower: Small-Scale, Holistic Grain Production for the Home and Market Producer to be one of several books which best seller in this year, that is because when you read this reserve you can get a lot of benefit into it. You will easily to buy this kind of book in the book retail outlet or you can order it by way of online. The publisher on this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more readily to read this book, as you can read this book in your Smart phone. So there is no reason to you personally to past this e-book from your list.

#### **Irvin Ashbaugh:**

The e-book with title The Organic Grain Grower: Small-Scale, Holistic Grain Production for the Home and Market Producer includes a lot of information that you can discover it. You can get a lot of profit after read this book. This specific book exist new expertise the information that exist in this e-book represented the condition of the world right now. That is important to yo7u to know how the improvement of the world. This kind of book will bring you in new era of the the positive effect. You can read the e-book on the smart phone, so you can read it anywhere you want.

#### **Michael Marchant:**

People live in this new morning of lifestyle always try to and must have the time or they will get lots of

stress from both everyday life and work. So , if we ask do people have spare time, we will say absolutely indeed. People is human not really a huge robot. Then we inquire again, what kind of activity do you possess when the spare time coming to anyone of course your answer can unlimited right. Then do you ever try this one, reading ebooks. It can be your alternative within spending your spare time, the particular book you have read is actually The Organic Grain Grower: Small-Scale, Holistic Grain Production for the Home and Market Producer.

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