

**UK AND IRELAND SEED SOVEREIGNTY  
PROGRAMME**



**SW ENGLAND YEAR LONG COURSE 2023**

**SEED PRODUCTION: POLITICS AND  
PRACTICE**

Thanks for taking an interest in our year-long seed production training programme. We're ever inspired by the commitment and enthusiasm in our seed networks and we're excited to have you with us!

In this document we have set out the sessions which make up this course. To be accepted as a seed production trainee, you must be able to:

- a) Attend all of the essential sessions
- b) Save one annual and one biennial seed crop (see further information below)
- c) Create a portfolio, documenting at least one of your seed crops

This course is a blend of online workshops and in person farm visits. Our online sessions take place on the **fourth Monday of the month** from April through to November as well as **2 farm visits held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June and Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October**. Essential sessions are all marked in **red**. On top of the essential workshops, we're offering optional 'Seed Club' sessions which are a chance for us to catch up on our seed crops and watch a webinar together. We've got an awesome library of webinars from growers and activists in the US which we're really excited to share with you.

Below is the full course schedule

<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>Session Title</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Tutor &amp; Facilitator</b>
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> April 17:00-19:00	Welcome to Seed Production: Politics and Practice!	Online	Regional coordinators (RC)
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 17:00-19:00	Seed Production for Growers - fundamentals	Online	Ashley Wheeler (Trill Farm Garden) + RC
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> June 17:00-19:00	Seed Production for Growers - selection	Online	Fred Groom (Vital Seeds) + RC
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> June 9:30-16:30	Seed Production for Growers	Farm visit @ Trill Farm Garden, Musbury	Ashley Wheeler (Trill Farm Garden) - AM Fred Groom (Vital Seeds) - PM + RC
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> July 17:00-19:00	Mid-season portfolio sharing session + Seed Club – TBC (pre-recorded webinar)	Online	RC
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> August 17:00-19:00	Seed Club – TBC (pre-recorded webinar)	Online	RC

Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> September 17:00-19:00	Politics of Seed Sovereignty	Online	Helene Schulze (Seed Sov & London Freedom Seed Bank) + RC
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October 17:00-19:00	Seed Club – TBC (pre- recorded webinar)	Online	RC
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> October 9:30-16:30	Seed crop harvest, cleaning and storage	Farm visit @ Vital Seeds, Ashburton	Ronja Schlumberger & Fred Groom (Vital Seeds) + RC
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> November 17:00- 19:00	End of season portfolio sharing session	Online	RC

### More information on the sessions:

#### Welcome to Seed Production: Politics and Practice!

This essential session is your chance to introduce yourself and meet your fellow seed trainees. South West Regional Coordinators will facilitate the online meeting as well as taking you through the course schedule and seed crop portfolios. We'll start to think about which seed crops you'd like to grow this year and do a quick seed growing quiz. We'll also vote on which webinars we'll watch in our seed club sessions.

#### Seed Production for Growers - fundamentals

Here, we'll look at how to grow healthy seed crops. We'll cover all aspects cultivation including population numbers, isolation, diseases, irrigation, staking and harvest. Ashley will take you through a couple of example seed crops which he grows and will cover the challenges and benefits of producing seed in a market garden context.

#### Seed Production for Growers - selection

With an emphasis on selecting seed crops for seed production, Fred and Ronja will take you through how they select plants for seed production. We'll take a brief look at plant genetics but the bulk of the workshop will look at the practicalities of selecting for seed.

#### Seed Production for Growers at Trill Farm Garden

During this farm visit, Ashley Wheeler from Trill Farm Garden will take you through how they produce seed crops whilst growing vegetables for a box scheme and restaurants. This will be largely farm based training with opportunities to look at crops in the ground. In the afternoon we'll be joined by Fred and Ronja who will take us through some crop selection demonstrations and hands on activities as well as answering any questions which might have come up from the session earlier in the week.

#### Mid-season portfolio sharing session

Facilitated by your regional coordinator, this session will be your chance to update your peers on how your seed crops are doing. Everyone will have the opportunity to share their seed crop portfolio and celebrate your successes and challenges!

### **Politics of Seed Sovereignty**

Helene Schulze, director of London Freedom Seed bank will take you through the history of seed and seed sovereignty in the UK. She'll look at current barriers to seed sovereignty and leave you with the political understanding and motivation to save seed.

### **Seed crop harvest, cleaning and storage**

Ronja and Fred will take us on a farm and office tour of their seed company, Vital Seeds. They will take us through the final stages of the seeds' journey, covering questions such as when is the right time to harvest, how to clean seed efficiently and how to store seed.

### **Portfolio Sharing Session**

Facilitated by your regional coordinator, this session will be your chance to learn from your peers. Everyone will have the opportunity to share their seed crop portfolio and celebrate our successes and challenges!

**To apply for the course, please fill out our online application form before Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January:**

**<https://forms.gle/WVrhWZ9xpj1VcXEi8>**