



## Georgia Organics is working to integrate healthy, sustainable and locally grown food into the lives of all Georgians.

### Growing Growers

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Supply is the most critical issue facing the sustainable food and farm movement. Georgia Organics has placed significant focus on providing continuing education opportunities, mentorship programs, and creating a multi-dimensional support system for local farmers to strengthen and expand the number of organic and sustainable farms in Georgia.

- Hosted **700 people** at our 2008 conference, featuring the **southeast's largest trade show** on sustainable agriculture.
- Supported **50 budding farmers** in our farmer-to-farmer mentorship program, with a focus on women and minorities.
- Distributed over **1,000 copies** of our organic growing curriculum to educators around the state and nation.
- Publishing the **Local Food Guide** to connect farmers with consumers and businesses.
- Organizing hands-on **workshops** and **field days** to teach farmers and gardeners sustainable growing methods.
- Collaborating with UGA, Ft. Valley and the Georgia Department of Agriculture to elevate and advance sustainable farming as a priority for the State.

### Farm to School

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Childhood obesity rates and nutrition-related diseases are rapidly rising and Farm-to-School programs are emerging as thoughtful solutions.

- Hired a full-time **farm to school coordinator** for the 2008-2009 school year.
- Actively working with a network of over **100 parents, students and schools**.
- Piloting two projects at E. Rivers and Cascade Elementary School in Atlanta. Program components include cross-curriculum lessons, daily student gardening, taste tests, farm tours, and harvest activities such as salad bar parties.
- Consulting with an additional **20 schools** on school gardens and farm to school programs.
- Reaching over **200 individuals** through the Farm to School *e-bite*.

### Farm to Institution Model

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Georgia Organics is collaborating with **Emory University** to support their goal of procuring **75%** of their campus food from local and sustainable sources by 2015. Georgia Organics hired a farmer liaison to connect food service staff with sustainable farmers and develop a model for other large institutions looking to initiate similar efforts.

### Community Food Projects

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As cities and towns strive to become greener, Georgia Organics is working to ensure that food and agriculture is a key element of sustainability planning.

- Partnering with the Atlanta Local Food Initiative to create a visionary platform, **The Plan for Atlanta's Sustainable Food Future**, which outlines goals for the next five years ([www.atlantafood.org](http://www.atlantafood.org)).
- Initiated **demographic research** on the economic benefits of building a stronger local food and farm community.
- Worked with **Atlanta City Council** to approve policies allowing community gardens to be established on city parks and provided seed funding to establish three **community gardens** in metro Atlanta in 2007.
- Working with the **faith community** to engage congregations through garden development, sustainable food education and developing farmer relationships and drop points. Funded and led a garden expansion project in 2007 at Holy Comforter Church that supports mentally disabled individuals.
- Presenting to **community leaders** and **elected officials** at meetings and conferences throughout the year.

### Public Education & Outreach

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In 2008, Georgia Organics reached over **225,000 individuals** and hosted nearly **100 educational workshops** statewide.

- Distributing **60,000+ copies** of our popular *Local Food Guide*.
- Reaching **13,000+ people** with our monthly *e-Dirt* and quarterly newsletter, *The Dirt*.
- Receiving **6.5 million hits** annually and an average of 552 daily visits to [www.georgiaorganics.org](http://www.georgiaorganics.org)