



Dr. Elaine Ingham to visit Living Web Farms, Organic Growers School,
to Train Farmers on Improving Soil Health

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For Immediate Release:

Dr. Elaine Ingham to visit Living Web Farms, Organic Growers School, to Train Farmers on Improving Soil Health

Dr. Elaine Ingham is an iconic figure in organic farming, and a world-renowned soil microbiologist. In March 2015, Dr. Ingham will visit Living Web Farms outside of Asheville, NC, and headline the annual NC Organic Growers School, bringing her wisdom on soil health to thousands of farmers and gardeners.

Asheville, NC. Louise Langsner has been gardening on the same land for over 40 years. Together with her partner Drew, Louise grows food, cooks community meals, and welcomes countless visitors to her farm in North Carolina for workshops in woodworking and basket weaving. The Langsner's Country Workshops business has grown hand in hand with their farm and homestead, and imparted gifts of food and knowledge to many who have passed through, since 1974. Ask Langsner to cite the biggest influence on her gardening, and she won't hesitate for a second. "Elaine Ingham. She is the most inspirational person in the gardening and farming world that I have ever met."

Indeed, even a cursory review of Dr. Elaine Ingham's research and resume will leave any grower spellbound. Dr. Ingham is a world-renowned soil biologist, who has made it her life's work to study dynamic relationships between soil microorganisms. Via light microscopy, she identifies and observes bacteria, fungi, protozoa, nematode, and other soil critters whose feeding relationships quite literally support all life on the planet. Soil is possibly the most fundamental non-negotiable need, shared by all living beings.

Workshop Details

TITLE: Better Soil Ecology for Better Farming with Elaine Ingham
TIME: 1:30 PM – 7:00 PM
DATE: Friday, March 6th
LOCATION: Living Web Farm, Mills River, NC
COST: with Conference
Registration: \$35 without
Conference Registration: \$50

Spend the afternoon with world-renowned soil biologist Elaine Ingham who will address salient, real-life examples of soil dynamism and instructions on how to fine tune soil nutrients for specific crops. Ingham will speak and tour Living Web Farms' forced-air compost bins and compost tea operations in addition to the intensively cropped, no-till vegetable operation. Participants will hear stories about farmers who are suppressing weeds with proper soil biology as well as those using compost tea and microbe-rich methods to increase yields and suppress diseases.

Weekend Details

Name: Organic Growers School Spring Conference
Date: March 7-8, 2015
Location: UNCA, Asheville, NC
Cost: \$45 for Saturday, \$40 for Sunday (Early Bird Registration by January 30, 2015). Registration is an additional \$15 after January 30th and at the door.
Keynote Address: *What to do About*

Because we all eat, we can all see from easy observation that soil is a vital resource. From Ingham's work, we begin to understand just why soil is so amazing, and how it works. "I knew that soil was alive," says Louise Langsner, "but I had no idea how alive until I met Elaine."

Langsner first met Ingham during a visit she made to Hendersonville, NC in 1997, where Dr. Ingham delivered an impassioned and memorable speech to a group of farmers, many of whom were on the cutting edge of organic agriculture, before organic was a household word. Now, as backyard compost bins and lasagna gardens pepper the suburban American landscape, Dr. Ingham's work holds practical relevance for an even wider, and exponentially growing audience.

On March 6 and 7, 2015, Dr. Ingham will visit Asheville North Carolina, bringing trainings on soil health to Living Web Farms, a non profit education and research farm in Mills River. Ingham will first provide an intensive half-day soil management and composting class, touring Living Web Farms' organic vegetable farm, forced-air composting facility, and compost tea operation. Then, on March 7th, Ingham will deliver a keynote address at the 22nd annual Organic Growers School, a conference for farmers and gardeners at UNC-Asheville. The keynote event will be accompanied by a social and silent auction, allowing attendees to mingle and enjoy fresh food, local beer, and bid on tools, books, services, and other garden and farm related auction items, to support the work of Organic Growers School.

Meredith Leigh, Education and Outreach Coordinator at Living Web Farms, and Event Coordinator for the Organic Growers School Conference explains, "Dr. Ingham's visit will bring the relevance of soil life, which you cannot see with the naked eye, right into the face of all kinds of growers. Her work is scientific no doubt, but her message is practical and action-oriented, one that all growers can adopt to improve their practice."

Ingham's keynote speech at the Organic Growers School Conference will touch on this very intersection between academic science and the day-to-day of farming. "In so many ways, the way we do science is limiting to the way we exercise scientific findings," says Leigh. In the evening address on March 7th, Ingham will speak about her personal experience reconciling reductionist science with holistic farming. "When it comes to land management, the whole absolutely is greater than the sum of its parts, and Elaine's work proves it," Leigh continues, "but we would not know that without the take-it-apart science that got her there. It's a fascinating, and confounding relationship."

And while farmers rely on science, and relish efficient technique, inspiration carries equal weight in such a risky business. Langsner admits that she has improved her garden's soil and her composting technique by leaps and bounds since first hearing Elaine's teaching, and the rewards dig deep. "Watching hard clay turn into friable, fragrant soil is one of the most satisfying things I have done in my life," she says.

Attendance to Dr. Ingham's workshop on March 6 at Living Web Farms is \$35.00. Admittance to the keynote address on March 7th

Science & Farming, with world-renowned soil biologist Dr. Elaine Ingham on Saturday, March 7, 2015 at Lipinsky Auditorium, UNCA Campus, Asheville, NC. Register: Online [here](#). Follow: [Facebook Event](#). Website: [here](#).

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Elaine Ingham Bio



Dr. Elaine Ingham is a world-renowned soil microbiologist and founder and president of Soil Foodweb, Inc., an organization that helps farmers all over the world grow more resilient crops by understanding and improving soil life. For the last 30 years Dr. Ingham has focused on the soil and its living organisms and providing sustainable solutions for maintaining soil health. She shares her knowledge in an easy to understand way and has worked with everyone from vegetable farmers, to cattle graziers, to nursery operators. Dr. Ingham earned her PhD from Colorado State University in 1981.

How to Register

Interested participants may register on-line at www.organicgrowersschool.org, or request a mailed registration form from meredith@organicgrowersschool.org or (828) 668-2127.

Registration forms are also available at area outlets such as Earth Fare, Greenlife Grocery, other sponsor's retail stores, and area Cooperative Extension offices.

is \$12 for Organic Growers School Conference attendees, and \$20.00 for participants not attending the weekend's Conference. Registration for all events is available at www.organicgrowersschool.org.

All inquiries: Contact Coordinator Meredith Leigh at meredith@organicgrowersschool.org or call (828) 668-2127

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Schedule of Classes

[Full Weekend Schedule.](#)

Organic Growers School • PO Box 17804 • Asheville, NC 28816

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