Seed Saving and adaptation to Ecological Crisis
Andrew McMillion
Change in perspective:

• **Measure entropy in systems, not only economics.**
• Control of the means of reproduction.
• Collapse awareness and creative responses.
• Cultivate joy and playfullness.
Schrödinger’s Paradox

Q: How it is that living systems increase their organization despite entropy increasing?
Schrödinger’s Paradox

A: Order from disorder + Order from order
    Production + Reproduction
High entropy versus low entropy ecosystems
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• Cultivate joy and playfullness as opposed to work.
Figure 3.9. Pro forma 2017 sales of leading firms after mergers and divestitures

https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264308367-en
Figure 3.10. Mergers and acquisitions in the global seed industry, 1990-2017
(a) DowDuPont and ChemChina-Syngenta
UN General Assembly adopted “The Declaration on the Rights of Peasants” (UNDROP) in December 2018.

Peasants’ rights to save, use, share and sell seeds that they themselves have produced are adopted as a human right.

Aims to improve living conditions and strengthen the food sovereignty of peasants in the fight against climate change.

Aims for the preservation of biodiversity.

In Denmark (2015), Frøsamlerne succeeded in changing the interpretation of the Danish seed regulations. This change means that the sale of vegetable seeds to individuals is exempted from the seed regulation.
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Permaculture and Energy Descent

Energy & Resource Use
Population
Pollution

Historical Time

Future Time

Pre-industrial sustainable culture

Industrial Ascent (Modernism)

Techno Explosion

Techno-Stability

Creative Response (Permaculture)

Energy Descent

Collapse

Agriculture 10,000 yrs BP
Indusrial Revolution Baby Boom
The Lost Forest Gardens of Europe

MAX PASCHALL - JULY 22, 2020

People of the Hazel

Mesolithic people constructed their houses from locally-available materials. Hazel poles often comprised the skeleton of the structure, and reeds like Phragmites australis (now endangered in Europe, but a common invasive in North America) were used as thatching. Mesolithic societies were experts at creating thriving societies whose only traces were stone tools and a more diverse landscape. Source.
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Beta vulgaris
var. maritima
var. altissima
var. esculenta
var. cicla

Spinacia oleracea

Beta
Spinacia

Chenopodiaceae
THE AMAZING AMARANTH FAMILY

Posted on July 25, 2020 by Jill Cloutier

Episode 32: Meet the broad and beautiful Amaranth family in this episode with farmer and seed saver Andrew McMillian. Andrew shares his experiences propagating and growing Amaranth and tells us about his favorite members in this low maintenance and resilient family including Orach (Atriplex hortensis), Caucasian Mountain Spinach (Helblitze tannoides), Syrian Medieval Chard, and Strawberry Spinach (Biflum capitatum).

We touch on the fascinating history of this plant, why Andrew believes it’s important to “sow your weeds”, and how Amaranth provides him with food nine months of the year. If you’re interested in learning how to save seeds, Andrew says Amaranth is a great family for apprentice seed savers to build a relationship with.

There’s an Amaranth for every climate: just be aware that they are self seeding and some members of the family can become invasive.

Andrew McMillian works on his small farm in Norway where he stewards a large and growing collection of plants. Andrew is a licent member and guild leader for several guilds in the Norwegian Seed Savers.

Learn more here:

Email: Andrew[at]NorwegianSeedSavers.no

Norwegian Seed Savers

Listen to a previous interview that I did with Andrew: Earth Care – How Connecting to Nature Can Change Your Life

https://sustainableworldradio.com/the-amazing-amaranth-family/
Locally Adapting Pumpkins

The perennial plant breeder Wes Jackson once said, “If your life’s work can be accomplished in your lifetime, you’re not thinking big enough.” The joy of working on something that is bigger than you and which connects you to the web of life is shared by all plant breeders. Being linked to the reproductive cycles in...
Ancient Garlic: the Perfect Peasant Plant
Diversifying Onions: an update on new onion varieties from the 2021 trial.
French beans
The King of Sansai